

Bush announces Greek-Turkish talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President George Bush announced Friday that Greece and Turkey had tentatively agreed to meet in September to discuss the Cyprus issue. "And I'm pleased," said Prime Minister (Constantinos) Mitsotakis and President Turgut Ozal have informed me that Greece and Turkey have agreed to attend a meeting concerning Cyprus," Mr. Bush told reporters. "This meeting would be well prepared and both convened and chaired by the United Nations secretary general under his Security Council mandate. Greek and Turkish leaders will work in support of the secretary general's efforts in advance of the meeting, planned for September in the United States, provided that adequate progress is made narrowing differences before then." Mr. Bush, on a recent visit to Greece and Turkey, had appealed for the two nations to resolve their 17-year-old dispute over Turkish occupation of part of Cyprus. He said the meeting announced Friday was one of two peace-oriented byproducts of the Gulf crisis effort, citing the Middle East peace talks as the other (see related story on page 2).

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Abu Nidal's group denies it banked with BCCI

NICOSIA (R) — The Palestinian group led by hardliner Abu Nidal denied Friday it had ever deposited millions of dollars with the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). A BCCI employee said in an interview broadcast Monday that the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal, had banked with BCCI since 1981 and several years ago had more than \$50 million on account in BCCI's London branches. "This information is baseless," the group said in a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia. "These reports are fabrications and allegations... aimed at finding pretexts for moving against the bank." The provocation of this issue came from the Zionist entity (Israel) and European elements linked to it.

Musa visits Italy

CAIRO (R) Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa flew to Italy Friday for a day of talks on efforts to convene a U.S.-proposed Middle East peace conference. Mr. Musa's visit was in response to an invitation issued by his Italian counterpart Gianni De Michelis, the Middle East News Agency said. The Egyptian foreign minister, a key player in any Middle East talks, is expected to head for Turkey Saturday to attend an annual foreign ministers' meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

U.S.-engineered Gulf war — Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — The Gulf crisis was engineered by the United States to improve its own political and economic conditions, a senior Iranian cleric said Friday. The first anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Tehran Radio quoted Ayatollah Musa Ardebili as saying that the crisis was guided by Washington to "realise its arrogant interests in the region and the world. With this issue, and with its military expedition in the region, America repaired its own economic and political problems."

Iran to hold talks with Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will soon hold a four-way meeting with Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday. The Iranian news agency IRNA, reporting Mr. Velayati's remarks in Istanbul, gave no details about the purpose of the meeting which would bring Tehran together with three key members of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq. Mr. Velayati arrived in Istanbul Friday to take part in a foreign ministers' meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Atlantis in orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The shuttle Atlantis thundered into orbit Friday with five astronauts and a communications satellite that will expand NASA's switchboard system in space. The 100-ton shuttle roared from its sea launch pad at 11:02 a.m. (1502 GMT), blasting flame from twin booster rockets. It tore through a hazy sky and headed over the Atlantic Ocean. Two minutes into the flight, the solid rocket boosters dropped empty into the ocean as planned. The shuttle reached its 294-kilometre-high destination 6½ minutes later on the thrust of three main liquid fuel engines. The flight had been delayed three times in the past two weeks, twice by bad parts and once by bad weather.

Bashir in London

LONDON (R) — Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir is in Britain for medical checks and a rest lasting up to two weeks, the Sudanese embassy in London said Friday. Mr. Bashir, who cut short a visit to northern Sudan last week for health reasons, was suffering from a fever, the embassy said. "One of the main purposes of his trip is to have a rest," the spokesman said. "He will probably be back at work in two weeks' time."

King says 'unprecedented progress' in peace efforts but much still to be done

Baker hopes Palestinians will pick up opportunity for peace

By Nerveen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Friday that "unprecedented progress" has been made in efforts to convene a peace conference on the Middle East but added that much work still needed to be done before the concerned parties arrive at the negotiating table.

At a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the King said that Jordan was still prepared to provide an "umbrella" for Palestinian participation through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and expressed hope that there would be progress in that direction.

Mr. Baker said that during his meeting with Jordanian officials in Amman and Palestinian delegates in Jerusalem he had "made the point that, in our view, Palestinians have more to gain from a viable and active peace process than almost anyone else."

"We also believe that Palestinians have the most to lose if there is no peace process," he added.

"We are very hopeful that the Palestinians will determine that they want to be part of this process, take advantage of His Majesty's offer of an umbrella in the form of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation," he said.

The King said he hoped the Palestinians "would decide on their path in efforts to a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli dimension."

King Hussein said Jordan had been in "constant dialogue with our Palestinian brethren, on a very large scale... and I hope that we'll make progress."

"The time has come, hopefully, for the Palestinians to decide, in view of all the circumstances and the opportunity that the moment presents for their participation in efforts for a comprehensive settlement," the King said.

But both the King and Mr. Baker declined to discuss the details of the progress on the joint delegation issue saying that they preferred not to conduct their negotiations through the media.

The King, however, pointed out that he believed "the progress made during this very short space of time has been unprecedented."

In Washington, President George Bush Friday urged Israel and Palestinians to resolve their disputes over representation in peace talks.

Mr. Bush spoke to reporters in the White House Rose Garden a day after returning from his summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, at which the two nations signed an historic arms treaty.

"We do not want to miss this opportunity for peace," Mr. Bush said of the Middle East conference. "The big news and the important news is that there seems to be agreement on this conference."

In Amman, the King and Mr. Baker also indicated that there were moves to improve bilateral relations but declined comment on the exact details of the improving ties pending a meeting between Mr. Baker and Prime Minister Taher Masi over a working breakfast today (Saturday).

"I believe that somehow, I hope, we are on the way towards a return to the kind of relationship that the U.S. and Jordan had in the 60s, and maybe in the early part of the 60s," King Hussein told reporters gathered at Al Hashemiyah Palace at the end of three hours of talks with the U.S. secretary of state.

"Tomorrow I will have a working breakfast with the prime minister during which we will go into further details on bilateral issues," Mr. Baker said.

But he told reporters that he had told King Hussein, during their meeting Friday, "that (President George Bush) had executed the determination required to our legislation to make it possible to reinstate some of the programs that we have ongoing and which were suspended by legislation."

Although Mr. Baker did not say that American aid to Jordan, frozen during the Gulf crisis, had been released, his answer was believed to contain such an announcement.

Mr. Baker arrived here Friday afternoon from occupied Jerusalem on the second leg of a regional tour which will also take him to Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

Mr. Baker praised King Hussein's efforts and contributions to the peace process saying that they

"were very very helpful."

"Those of us who are interested in creating a viable peace in the Middle East appreciate the contribution you have made. Sir, over the days and weeks, some of the positions you have taken and statements you have made, I think that they will be very helpful in moving the process forward."

Mr. Baker said he had briefed the King on the details of his meetings with Israeli officials and Palestinian leaders but did not reveal the content of these talks.

Israel has given the U.S. a conditioned "yes" to an invitation to attend a peace conference on the Middle East but Mr. Baker failed to win Palestinian approval for his proposals.

He said he had four hours of "very serious" and "intensive" discussions with the three Palestinian leaders during which he

"made a number of points and suggestions."

He said he believed that the Palestinians will give "consideration" to his suggestions but that although he was pleased with the meeting he still felt that there was

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Talabani: Autonomy talks face problems

PARIS (R) — Talks with Baghdad on Kurdish autonomy have hit problems but Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wished to reach an agreement, Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani said in an interview published Friday. Mr. Talabani told the daily Le Figaro he met President Saddam last month. "I did not find him aggressive. On the contrary, I found he wished to reach an agreement with the Kurds," he said. Mr. Talabani said negotiations had found some common ground but his problems when they came down to details. They stumbled on democratisation, the extent of autonomous powers and of the autonomous area and the right of Kurds to have relations with foreign governments. "Kurds will never break off talks. If they are broken off, it will be by the Iraqis and they will have to bear the responsibility," Mr. Talabani said. Mr. Talabani, who visited Paris this week to ask France to help build refugee camps, said there was no more room for war between Baghdad and the Kurds. The Kurds began talks with the Iraqi government in April shortly after the collapse of their post-Gulf war rebellion sent up to two million refugees fleeing to the borders with Turkey and Iran.



Jordanian and American sides headed by His Majesty King Hussein and Secretary of State James Baker hold talks in Amman Friday (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King hopes signing of START positive for peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent separate messages to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev congratulating them on their signing in Moscow on Wednesday of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (START) and welcoming the superpowers' announcement that they would co-host a peace conference on the Middle East in October.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King voiced hope that the signing of START will reflect positively on efforts for peace all over the world, particularly the Middle East.

The King expressed satisfaction with the two leaders' joint announcement of a Middle East peace conference, the agency added.

Petra also reported from Tunis that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had welcomed, in principle, the superpowers' call for a Middle East peace conference.

Petra quoted a PLO spokesman as saying that while the

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Palestinians meet Baker, seek clarifications on U.S. proposals

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — After a four-hour meeting Friday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Palestinians asked for clarifications on the Americans before Palestinian delegates would agree to join a Middle East peace conference.

Two Palestinians who met Mr. Baker made clear that the decision would be made by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that the PLO must name the delegation to peace talks.

Their statements came a day after Israel agreed to join in the negotiations on the condition that a solution could be reached over differences on which Palestinians would attend. One Israeli demand is that the PLO play no role.

Faisal Husseini, a leading PLO figure, said the Palestinians would work with U.S. officials to clarify the American stand on the issue of Palestinian representation.

"I can say that we are working on everything to move the obstacle which was put in front of us," he said.

Hanan Ashrawi, also a PLO figure, said agreeing to send a delegation amounted to more

than submitting names.

"It's a question of principles and who has the right to form the Palestinian delegation," she said. "This is only the PLO and the Palestinian people. Who has the right to interfere, to dictate, to veto? Nobody."

Ms. Ashrawi added she was certain the PLO leadership in Tunis "will put together a delegation that will admit Palestinians' maximum rights and interests and will serve us in the best possible way."

She said that the Palestinians wanted a written agreement with the Americans similar to one that is being worked out with the Israelis. She read a statement from the PLO that she said represented the Palestinians' views.

The major points were: Israel must withdraw from all occupied territories, Palestinian participation must be based on a PLO decision, Arab Jerusalem must be included in the talks, and all Jewish settlement activity must cease.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif said from Tunis there should be no suggestion that Israel would

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Sharon launches anti-peace campaign

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's leading hawk Ariel Sharon launched a campaign Friday against Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's agreement in principle to attend a Middle East peace conference in October.

"If I thought we were speaking of a conference that would bring peace, I would support it. To my regret it's a conference that will lead to war," Mr. Sharon, who is housing minister in the Shamir government, told Israel Radio.

"When they will bring us a proposal that is not to our liking and we will refuse to accept it, they will accuse us of sabotaging the very conference we have just accepted. So what sort of negotiations is that?"

Mr. Shamir agreed Thursday to the superpower-sponsored Middle East peace talks — but only if U.S. Secretary of State James Baker could remove the stumbling block of who is to represent Palestinians.

Israel opposes the participation of residents from Arab East Jerusalem, home to leading Palestinian activists.

Mr. Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion who aspires to succeed the 75-year-old premier, vowed to fight Mr. Shamir's recommendation when the cabinet considers it Sunday.

But Mr. Shamir could muster as much as a 17-3 majority in the cabinet. Only three ministers, all from tiny far-right-wing parties, have joined Mr. Sharon in opposing the recommendation.

Mr. Sharon, 63, insisted Israel had made all the "concessions" by letting European and United Nations representatives attend the conference albeit as observers, and entering talks before the end of the Palestinian uprising.

Mr. Shamir's government previously opposed any U.N. or European role in peace talks for fear of being coerced into ceding occupied Arab territory, as most of the world demands.

The burly Sharon would not say if he would quit Mr. Shamir's coalition government, as he did last year in protest at Israeli peace efforts, saying: "I will choose to fight as I see fit."

Mr. Sharon and his fellow right-wingers could give Mr. Shamir, himself a hardliner, a pretext for calling early elections that would delay peace talks.

As housing minister, Mr. Sharon

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'White Paper' explains Jordan's stand, actions to defuse Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has issued a White paper clarifying Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis and describing the Kingdom's stand during the crisis, one year after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

The White Paper, issued on the first anniversary of the invasion, aims at clarifying certain misperceptions of the Jordanian stand on the issue, according to a Ministry of Information press release.

The 78-page White Paper describes the Jordanian government's policies "during the various stages of the Gulf crisis between the summer of 1990 and early 1991 with related documentation from official and public sources," the press release said.

It added that in view of Jordan's geographic position and its links with Iraq, Kuwait and the Gulf states, the Jordanian government found it necessary to issue "an analytical exposition of records and events and decisions that shaped Jordan's active involvement in all phases of the crisis."

The paper presented a factual report on activities undertaken by His Majesty King Hussein and

senior Jordanian officials towards securing a peaceful resolution of the conflict through pursuing "an Arab solution in conformity with the United Nations Charter," it said.

Following is the full text of the press release issued by the Ministry of Information.

WITH the outbreak of the Gulf crisis on Aug. 2, 1990 attention was focussed on the region as a whole and, more particularly on Jordan, whose position regarding the crisis elicited differing opinions. Some judgments passed on Jordan led to it being subjected to pressures bordering on punishment.

It is with the intention of clarifying certain misperceptions, that the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has published a White Paper, now that a year has elapsed since the eruption of the crisis. The White Paper contains a description of Jordan's policies during different phases of the Gulf crisis between the summer of 1990 and early 1991 and refers to documents both public and private.

The White Paper, titled "Jordan and the Gulf Crisis" is in part of an analytical exposition of

records and events and decisions that shaped Jordan's active involvement in all phases of the crisis in view of the country's "geographic position and close social, economic and political links with Iraq, Kuwait and the Gulf" and its traditional moderating role within the Arab World in addition to its membership of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) linking Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen, over which His Majesty King Hussein presided in 1990.

The paper also presents a factual report on activities undertaken by His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials towards securing a peaceful resolution of the conflict through pursuing an "Arab solution in conformity with the rules of the United Nations Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of regional disputes (Chapters 6 and 8)." A chronology of events and Jordan's reaction to them is also presented starting from the beginning of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990 underlining a neutral position which strove to "maintain a delicate balance between respect for

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Jordan did whatever it could during Gulf crisis, parliamentarians say

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the world marked the first anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Friday, leading members of Jordan's parliament said that the Kingdom's position throughout the Gulf crisis and the ensuing war remained the only position that the country people and leadership could have taken.

The failure of the Arab countries to successfully solve the Iraq-Kuwait problem on their own without the interference of non-Arab parties was seen as the beginning of a regional catastrophe by parliamentarians.

Most parliamentarians lamented the inter-Arab splits that resulted from the crisis. The destruction of much of Iraq's infrastructure, the increased foreign domination of the region and the immense amount of money spent on the Gulf war by Arab states were also points of failure according to members of both the Upper House (Senate) and Lower House of parliament.

Jordan's damaged economy, members of parliament agreed, is a regrettable but possibly an unavoidable consequence of the

position that Jordan took.

"Economically we lost a lot," said Senator Khalil Salem. "The fear of suffering economically should not have changed the position that we took at the time however, there is always a price," he added.

"Jordan could not have taken any other position," explained Deputy Suleiman Arar, who was speaker of the Lower House last August 2 when the Gulf crisis began.

"We could not have condoned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and we did not. We could not have accepted foreign soldiers in the Holy Land (Saudi Arabia) and we did not," he told the Jordan Times.

"The economic consequences of our position were disastrous to a great extent, with even our Arab brothers closing their borders with us, but we could not have asked any Jordanian to fight against Iraq with the American flag over his head," Mr. Arar said.

Liberal and more traditional members of the Parliament also said no other position could have been taken to the crisis by Jordan, and the Muslim Brotherhood representatives in the Low-

er House also threw in their approval to that overall view.

While at packed public meetings, Brotherhood speakers had called for Jihad (holy war) after the arrival of American troops on Saudi soil, the spokesman of the group in the Lower House praised Jordan's position in the crisis and war.

"We could not have done any more than we did," said Ahmad Qteish Azaideh.

"We the Brotherhood, personally appealed to (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait to avoid a catastrophe," he said. Asked what more Jordanians or Jordan could have done, Mr. Azaideh said: "Nothing."

Senator Juma Hamad, an Arab nationalist, said the concept of two Arab states merging into a single entity was commendable but that the way Iraq had chosen to link with Kuwait was not a desirable way of going about achieving Arab unity.

"Our aim has been and is always Arab unity but the Iraq-Kuwait affair has taught us that it can only be done through popular

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Khaled Al Hassan says joint delegation only viable option

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A leading Palestinian official has defended the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, explaining the advantages of such a delegation at the Middle East peace conference scheduled in October and urge the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to make its decision on the issue soon.

Khaled Al Hassan, a founder of the mainstream Fatah faction of the PLO and head of the foreign affairs committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said that a joint delegation pushes the ceiling higher for negotiations with Israel.

"The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will prevent the unilateralism of the Palestinian delegation from inside (the occupied territories), whose ceiling of negotiations would be self-rule," explained Mr. Hassan.

"The joint delegation could make Security Council Resolution 242 and exchanging land for peace the ceiling for negotiations," he added.

Mr. Hassan, an outspoken controversial figure in the Palestinian scene for opposing the PLO position during the Gulf crisis, told a small crowd at the Royal Cultural Centre Thursday evening that when Jordan disengaged itself administratively from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the occupied territories "became without an heir from the political point of view."

"In the natural reality of things, this is not so because the natural law is that the people of the country are the owners of the country," Mr. Hassan clarified cautiously.

"But with the political reality, Israel began to claim that Palestine first belonged to the British then to Jordan, which left it for Israel (after the Jordan's disengagement)," he analysed.

The Palestinian official said that even when the PLO declared independence, Resolution 242 does not apply to the PLO, but to the actual occupied territory.

"With the joint delegation, the political (not the legal and administrative) ties will return in order to achieve the Israeli withdrawal, and then the creation of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation," Mr. Hassan said.

He stressed that the only way for the PLO to enter the peace process was through the joint delegation because the organisation "is rejected even before the excuse of its position on the Gulf war."

He added that the PLO's isolation increased with the Gulf crisis.

sis, especially from Europe and the Arab countries which were allied with the U.S. during the war.

Mr. Hassan urged the PLO to take the "right" decision soon on the joint delegation.

"The legitimacy of the PLO now is based on its legitimacy from the inside (Palestinians in the occupied territories). Those on the inside are under occupation and their demand is an end to occupation. If they see that a PLO rejection (of the peace proposal) will secure the occupation, it is because Jordan will not negotiate the Palestinian question, but it will be negotiated by Palestinians," he said.

He criticised that sometimes decisions take too long before they are made, and that even if they were the right decisions but came at the wrong time, the decision then has no value.

Mr. Hassan explained that the joint delegation will be comprised of two delegations who represent two parties — Jordan and Palestine — but who have a common objective based on an agreement of the dynamics of the mission of the delegation.

"The final signatures on whatever is agreed upon is not done by the head of the joint delegation, nor by the members of the delegation, but by the governments from which the delegation represent," he explained, adding that Jordan was officially committed that if it attends the conference alone, it will only discuss Jordan.

Mr. Hassan stressed that he was against an independent Palestinian delegation to negotiate bilaterally with Israel "because it means stopping this delegation from all possibilities of success or even an honourable failure."

He recalled the Camp David peace accord between Egypt and Israel, saying that although the late President Anwar Sadat had made so many concessions, Israel kept rejecting them.

"For 13 days, the two did not agree on one sentence, but in the end, the Americans came in with an agreement that was ready and asked the two to sign them," said Mr. Hassan.

The current realities, he added, must be understood and dealt with in the right way.

"As the son of Haifa, I should reject this whole thing. But what happens if I do? There is a colonial (Israeli) occupation. There were 50,000 Jews, then one million, and then 3.5 million Jews. There are two million Jews on the way from the Soviet Union, other than the Falashas, those from Yugoslavia and Albania. They're taking the land, farming it, and there are three generations of Jews born there,"

Mr. Hassan said.

He continued: "They (Israel) are supported by America. They have weapons we cannot fight. He Arabs now reject the military option, and only state that rejected negotiations (Syria) now accepted it. Where do we go?"

Mr. Hassan, who was criticised by some of the attendees at his lecture for his outspoken position, commented that the idea of the alternative homeland for Palestinians was Israel's measures of forced emigration of Arab residents from their land, and not the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"Our people are emigrating everywhere in the world. There are 70,000 Palestinians in Germany alone," he said. "We have to understand all these matters and know that now we have a chance to return Arabism to the West Bank and Gaza."

The official also cited another reality that without Arabs and Arab solidarity, the PLO "could not move in the international arena" and that the Palestinian problem could not be solved without a decision of "those controlling international politics."

"International politics and pressure are stemmed from economic interests, which include energy resources, large consumer markets, financial agreements and alliances; and the Palestinian people do not have these basics, but the Arabs do," commented Mr. Hassan.

"We have no solidarity and no alliances; we live in an era that lacks a balance of power, and an absence of a political and cultural balance," he stated, adding that these facts must be considered when taking a decision.

He added that one should not fall in the hands of enemy tactics, as he put it, referring to the issue of Palestinian representation from East Jerusalem at the conference.

"We weren't the ones who brought up the issue of Jerusalem. Will the Palestinian or Jordanian delegation ignore the issue of Jerusalem during negotiations? Does it mean that we get Jerusalem back if someone is present from Jerusalem and if there isn't, it's gone? Mr. Hassan asked, adding that that was not necessarily the case.

He reiterated that the givens and realities must be considered and understood if one was to move ahead in life and to think clearly, and urged moving way from dreams.

"I don't mean that we should surrender to reality," Mr. Hassan said, "but for reality to be a source of thought in order to know how to act and to know what can be taken and what cannot."

Kuwaitis mark anniversary of invasion

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis marked the first anniversary of the Iraqi invasion Friday by firing rounds of ammunition into the air and shouting Allahu Akbar from rooftops and minarets.

Tracer bullets lit up the night sky while young men, driving sleek limousines and sports cars, cruised around Kuwait City sounding their horns and singing patriotic songs.

Muezzins summoned the faithful to prayers from minarets at midnight, drawing cries of Allahu Akbar across the city of high-rise buildings and wide avenues.

Despite impromptu celebrations overnight, the government kept a low profile and the official media carried mournful messages recalling the invasion.

No official ceremonies or demonstrations were planned. Shops and government offices were closed Friday.

The streets were all but empty after sunrise, when the temperature starts to quickly climb to well above 40 degrees Celsius (105 Fahrenheit), apart from mainly Asian foreign guest workers heading to menial jobs.

"We just want to forget what happened, that is why there are no parades or anything," said one Kuwaiti man.

Kuwait City basked in bright sunshine, a reminder that one of the worst legacies of the invasion — blazing oil wells blown up in the last days of the war — was gradually being brought under control.

Smog and soot from the fires shut out the sun in the weeks following the Feb. 28 liberation of the emirate by a U.S.-led alliance of Western and Arab countries.

Firefighters have capped more than 250 of about 600 wells drenched or torched, sharply reducing the level of choking pollution.

Conspicuous by their absence from the streets were members of Kuwait's tiny police force and the army which was overrun by the Iraqi invasion force in the early hours of Aug. 2, 1990.

Kuwaiti residents awoke a year ago to find Iraqi tanks and troops in full control of the capital after a lightning attack that stunned the world and sent world oil prices soaring.

Members of the ruling Al Sabah family and other government officials fled into exile. The invasion triggered a mass exodus that cut the emirate's population to less than one million — half its pre-invasion level.

Kuwait Radio lamented the invasion by the "despot of Baghdad" and urged Kuwaitis not to forget their martyrs.

Kuwait City emerged from the invasion with mainly superficial damage and is returning to normal.

Shopping centres are packed with customers after sunset when temperatures become more bearable. Fleets of expensive cars take to the highways. Men in flowing white robes and girls in Western clothes crowd the streets in search of consumer goods.

Supermarkets are filled to the brim with all types of foreign products imported tax free.

Apart from the blazing oil wells, the chief reminders of the six-week Gulf war are the wreckage of Iraqi tanks and other equipment littering the highway to the Kuwait-Iraq border.

A year after the Iraqi invasion, Kuwait is still a super-rich country lavishing cash on citizens and moving rapidly towards economic recovery.

Kuwait, whose oil exports were choked off by the invasion, exported its first cargo of crude last week and hopes to export 400,000 barrels of oil a day by the end of the year.

Kuwait's image irredeemably dented

KUWAIT (R) — A year ago, the sight of tiny Kuwait crushed under the boots of Iraq's army outraged the world and created a wave of sympathy which helped the emirate regain its freedom.

But no sooner was the victim plucked from the jaws of the aggressor than vengeful Kuwaitis threw away much of the goodwill of the world.

The Kuwaiti authorities compounded the damage with a series of controversial trials for alleged collaborators. The rules of evidence were lax and the sentences were harsh.

Western liberals and Arab hardliners joined in a chorus of condemnation. "Was this the Kuwait our countrymen fought to restore," Westerners asked.

The uproar has abated but the events of the first three months after the allied victory over Iraq forces have left a bitter taste that will linger for years.

Relations between Kuwaitis and Palestinians, the main victims, are still tense. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, some of them born in Kuwait, continue to abandon their adopted homeland for fear of maltreatment.

Bedouins, stateless immigrants deprived of citizenship for decades by Kuwait's strict naturalisation rules, languish in transit camps on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, full of hatred for the Kuwaiti establishment they once served.

Some Kuwaitis abroad, pitted during the crisis as hapless refugees, now seem more like absentee landlords or pampered idlers too decadent to go home and rebuild their country.

The Kuwaiti ruling family, by appearing to drag its feet on democratic reforms which might undermine its privileges, has contributed to the image of a Kuwait which failed to learn the lessons of the Iraqi invasion.

But the worst damage to Kuwait's international image was done in the first days and weeks after allied troops, led by the United States, chased out Iraqi forces on Feb. 28.

Gangs of youths roamed the streets hunting down and killing Iraqi soldiers and Palestinians.

Rows of unmarked graves in Riga cemetery outside Kuwait City testify to these acts of free-lance murder. Scores of unknown victims were buried there, some in mass graves.

Other victims were dragged off to jail to be flogged, electrocuted or burnt with acid, human rights organisations say.

U.S. envoy hopeful of Cyprus parley in September

ANKARA (R) — The special U.S. envoy on Cyprus said Friday he was hopeful that a United Nations-led international conference to end the division of the island could be convened in September.

Ambassador Nelson Ledsky, the State Department's special Cyprus coordinator, told reporters the initiative had the active support of Turkey and Greece as well as the Greek and Turkish communities on the island.

He was encouraged because he believed the initiative "enjoys the support of the government of Turkey, that it has as well the active support of the government of Greece, the government of Cyprus and... the support of the Cypriot community as well."

Mr. Ledsky was speaking after talks with Turkish leaders in Ankara before flying on to Nicosia and Athens.

His mission followed visits to Greece and Turkey last month by President George Bush that gave impetus to current U.N. efforts to settle the 17-year Cyprus dispute.

Mr. Ledsky said he expected a U.N. team to make a further visit to the region in the next few weeks and make its report to the

"They (Kuwaitis) employed methods learnt from the Iraqis, killing and torturing at a random," said one resident who stayed in Kuwait during the occupation.

The restored Kuwaiti government had declared martial law even before it went home from exile. The 5,000-strong army had sweeping powers of search and arrest, the press was muzzled and public gatherings were outlawed.

The government began arresting thousands of Palestinians, Iraqis and bedouins on the grounds they posed a security risk.

"Victims have been gunned down in public or taken away, tortured and killed in secret. Hundreds... were plucked from their homes, taken from streets or arrested at check-points, many to be tortured in police stations, schools or other makeshift centres," Amnesty International said in a report.

The victims were largely Palestinians, suspected of helping the Iraqis and informing on members of the Kuwaiti resistance.

"The scale and persistence (of the abuses) threaten to leave an indelible stain on Kuwait's human rights record," added the London-based organisation.

Then the trials began and the human rights organisations said they were alarmed at reports of forced confessions, scanty evidence and the lack of a formal appeal procedure.

The organisations, backed by many Western politicians, reminded Kuwait it was in danger of acquiring an image as black as that of the government of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Under pressure from the United States and other Western countries, the Kuwaiti authorities tried to stop the killings.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah commuted to life imprisonment the death sentences on 29 convicts. Kuwait also promised to look into cases of miscarriages of justice.

The government abolished martial law in June and has promised to hold elections some time next year.

Palestinians say that police harassment has declined in recent months but that the post-war scars will never heal.

"We feel bitter and betrayed. We spent our life building this country with our labour. They are uprooting us as if we invaded Kuwait," said a Palestinian intellectual.

Invasion anniversary passes quietly in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — The anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait passed quietly in Baghdad Friday.

The only official recognition came through newspaper columns justifying the attack and repeating conspiracy theories of Iraq as victim of an American-Zionist plot.

Most Iraqis simply want to forget what they consider a tarnished page in the history of their country. They let the day slip by with scarce consideration, except to reflect on how things might have been.

People are concerned now with secondary effects of their government's takeover of Kuwait, mainly the increasing difficulty of making ends meet, the result of sanctions that continue to strangle the economy.

"There's no food, no job," said Jamal Hamid, who was walking down the sidewalk along Saadoun Street with his wife and three small children.

A year ago, loudspeakers blared the news of the invasion, saying that Iraq had reclaimed a land long-considered to have historically belonged to it.

Many people were shocked, and worried about the consequences, but plenty of them were in a celebratory mood, said Abdul Kareem Jassim, a storekeeper.

"Iraq was led to this, to go into Kuwait, because of the economic situation," he said.

He said Iraq had only its oil to repay a tremendous debt from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, yet the Kuwaitis and other Gulf nations "flooded the market with oil."

The storekeeper said most Iraqis anticipated the reaction from the West, although they did not believe it would lead to war.

Even then, he said, a united Arab nation would have helped. "To be honest, if people were on our side in a correct way maybe we would have won," he said.

Saadoun Street is a busy commercial street. Stores have plenty of merchandise but there is little money to buy. Inflation is estimated at 300 per cent at least since the Gulf war.

"Of course, things were better before Iraq went into Kuwait," said Madeleine Mikhail, who was passing by on the sidewalk. "We are suffering. The Iraqis are suffering because of the sanctions. The war was worse," she said.

The government has acknowledged that some "mistakes" were made in the handling of the Kuwait issue. But officials would not get more specific than that, saying that a period of introspection may last for years before the full details and analysis of the decision-making are revealed.

Government-run newspapers featured articles Friday outlining events leading up to the invasion and saying Iraq was forced to act because peaceful attempts to solve its problems with Kuwait were spurned.

"The aggressive attack (sanctions) on Iraq after Aug. 2 and the military aggression" has proved to be directed against Iraq not because of the Kuwait affair, because it continues after retreat from Kuwait," the Baath Party organ Al Thawra said.

Many Iraqis, including the most educated, believe that the way the Kuwaitis ignored Iraq's military threat indicated they had been promised by the United States that nothing would happen.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

EC gives \$4.1m for Ethiopian refugees

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) gave 3.75 million European currency units (\$4.1 million) of emergency aid Friday to help refugees and displaced people in Ethiopia. The EC Executive Commission said the money would help finance action by humanitarian organisations to provide food, shelter and medical care for displaced Ethiopians and refugees from wars in neighbouring Somalia and Sudan. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the International Red Cross and the Belgian branch of Medecins Sans Frontieres were among aid agencies which would receive funds, the commission said in a statement. An estimated 1.8 million people have been displaced by civil wars in the Horn of Africa, where more than 17 million face starvation this year because of drought and war.

Fire breaks out again in Tehran bazaar

NICOSIA (AP) — A fire in the Tehran bazaar burned large quantities of rice and sponges Thursday in the second such blaze in four days, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency said firefighters rushed to the scene within minutes and fought for two hours to smother the blaze. It did not say whether anyone was killed or injured. Firefighters fought for seven hours to put out a fierce blaze in another part of the sprawling bazaar last Monday, in which tens of millions of dollars of fabrics and carpets were burned. Iran said the fires were being investigated, but did not indicate whether arson was suspected. The bazaar, the capital's main commercial district, is a labyrinth of brightly lit shops and stalls. Bazaar merchants who supply the city with almost all commercial goods. The merchants financed the 1979 revolution that overthrew the monarchy and replaced it with an Islamic republic. They carry substantial political clout. But public resentment has been rising against the merchants, whom people have started to blame for price gouging and creating shortages to drive prices up. The merchants, who believe in a laissez-faire economy, are also resented by hardline opponents of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who believe in a tightly controlled economy.

Court acquits journalist of charges of insulting Iran

GENEVA (R) — A Geneva court has acquitted a Swiss journalist of publicly insulting a foreign state by publishing allegations that the Iranian government ordered the assassination of an exiled opponent in Switzerland last year. Geneva magistrates ruled Wednesday that journalist Myriam Gazut acted in good faith in reporting statements made at a news conference by relatives of the victim that the Iranian authorities ordered the killing and that Tehran's ambassadors in Geneva and Bern supervised it. The case arose out of the shooting of Iranian exile Kazem Rajavi at Coppet near Geneva on April 24, 1990. Mr. Rajavi's brother accused the Iranian authorities at a news conference the following day. The court found that the allegations were "sufficiently probable," to warrant being reported by Ms. Gazut in the Geneva newspaper La Suisse. It ordered the Iranian government, which brought the case to the court by suing Ms. Gazut, to pay costs totalling 8,500 Swiss francs (about \$5,600). A lawyer said Iran would appeal against the decision.

Algeria talks fail to agree on terms for general election

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's first multi-party talks ended in failure Friday with delegates unable to agree conditions to hold general elections and free the country from a political crisis.

New talks are to be held on Aug. 22.

The brainchild of Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali, the extended three-day meeting aimed to find consensus to reschedule Algeria's first democratic general elections after Islamic fundamentalist unrest derailed the poll planned for June.

Forty eight parties attended the opening but their leaders could not agree on a resolution prepared by a think-tank set up by half of them Thursday.

The resolution called for the state of siege to be lifted "in the shortest time" and demanded

that "civil security" be ensured.

President Chadli Benjedid imposed the state of siege on June 5 after a strike by supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the country's main opposition party, ignited violence.

The FIS, whose leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj are detained facing charges of conspiracy against the state, did not attend the conference.

Several small fundamentalist and extreme left parties saw the resolution as conciliatory but expressed disappointment that it did not demand the release of the FIS leaders.

Mr. Ghazali told delegates that "traditions of dialogue are not yet completely instituted" in Algeria and "clean and fair" central elections would be held before the end of the year.

He asked them to give him their ideas in writing by Aug. 15 on revising the electoral law and constituencies. It was this law and constituency boundaries, seen as favouring the former National Liberation Front (FLN), which sparked the FIS strike.

The resolution drawn up by the think-tank demanded revision of the electoral law and constituencies.

The FLN ruled the one-party state for nearly 30 years from independence until reforms by Mr. Benjedid, and the resolution demanded it return to the state the resources gained in that time.

FLN Secretary-General Abdul Hamid Mehri and his two deputies quit the conference Thursday in protest.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77511-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carnet de Notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Easy Come, Easy Go"

PRAYER TIMES

6:49 Fajr
05:47 Sunrise
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:37 Maghrib
21:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Sante Church Tel. 661757

Terracotta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will northerly moderate.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 19 / 31
Aqaba 25 / 39
Deserts 20 / 36
Jordan Valley 24 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31.5, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hafez Khawaja 791954
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awwad 846070
Dr. Khalid Abdo 657129
Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 624830
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Naboukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaoum pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRRID:

Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)
Al Shura pharmacy (—) 275825
ZARQA:
Dr. Tarco Hijwaji (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 611111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 64041/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amn. 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 66722/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66617/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664104/6
Islamic, Al-Nababjoun 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 New Delhi (RJ)
08:30 Athens (RJ)
08:

Jordan, S. Korea discuss ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-member South Korean-Jordanian parliamentary delegation now on a visit to Jordan today meets with the speakers of the Senate and the Lower House of Parliament to discuss Jordanian-Korean relations and Middle East issues.

The delegation, led by Dongin Lee, will also hold discussions at the Arab Potash Company (APC) on Jordanian potash exports to South Korea.

The delegation members, who arrived in Amman Thursday on a four-day visit, Friday toured the archaeological sites in Jerash and the Dead Sea.

The first government official to meet the delegation Thursday was Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour, who discussed Middle East developments and current efforts to reach a lasting peace.

Jordanian-South Korean cooperation in a number of fields and the role of the Korean-Jordanian Friendship Society in promoting relations were reviewed at the meeting.

Mr. Dongin Lee and his accompanying delegation are due to meet with Prime Minister Taher Masi Sunday.

Jordan marks Queen Zein's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Friday marked the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

On this happy occasion, the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to Her Majesty and proudly remember her untiring devotion and sacrifice to the Kingdom.

Her Majesty has embodied the greatest sense of motherhood by selflessly devoting her entire life to her eldest son His Majesty King Hussein, her sons Her Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan and her daughter Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Queen Mother has also contributed to the strong women movement in Jordan, leading the way as a staunch defender of women's rights.



The Queen Mother contributes effectively to social and humanitarian services and gives particular attention to charitable organisations and voluntary institutions.

She was president of the first women society in Jordan in 1944 and since then she has spared no

efforts in providing support for all voluntary and humanitarian causes in the country.

Much of the Queen Mother's attention has been directed towards an orphanage in Amman named after her, providing it with care, financial assistance and support.

Jordanians think the Gulf crisis had a role in the ensuing peace process

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Friday, Aug. 2 marked a year since Iraq invaded Kuwait, triggering a series of drastic changes in the region, including a major rift in Arab ranks.

In a random survey conducted by the Jordan Times, people interviewed had a range of opinions concerning the crisis and the war that followed but seemed to agree that the crisis, although initially was not "linked" to the Palestinian problem, had in actuality pushed it to the top of the international agenda.

"Of course the Gulf crisis moved the conflict, the peace process that we are seeing now is a direct result of the crisis," a local artist, Abdul Halim Abu Saud, 38, told the Jordan Times.

"I believe that by destroying Iraq, the United States felt it is capable of implementing its new world order, which might include solving the Arab-Israeli conflict," Yehia Mahmoud Afghani, a 41-year-old merchant in downtown Amman, said. "But I think that the solution to the problem will

be according to American terms."

Another merchant, Badr Aldine Bokhari, said he believed that the "linkage" that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein stressed during the crisis and was rejected by the American-led world community is "the truth that they (the world community) ignored but have no choice now but to face it."

"The peace process became world news following the Gulf crisis," Youssef Khatib, a 29-year-old teacher, said. He added that although he was in Yemen during the crisis, he felt that prior to the eruption of the crisis the Arab-Israeli conflict was "swept under the carpet" and that "the crisis had resurrected the Palestinian problem."

As for the lessons learnt from the crisis, the general consensus was that the Arab World had failed to show solidarity by not trying to contain the conflict within an Arab context and "bowing" to pressure to invite foreign troops to the region. The majority also reflected a certain fear of a new type of colonialism that

would haunt the Arab World for some time to come.

"We learnt a number of lessons but the most important is that we, Arabs, should always be careful of any foreign intervention," Mr. Afghani said. "We saw how quick the West ganged up to destroy Iraq, and this should be a lesson for us to remember," he added.

"The Gulf crisis split our ranks. It was also an American message to the entire world, especially to the developing and Third World countries preparing them for the American new world order," Mr. Bokhari said. "I hope and pray to God that the Arabs will realise the dangers of that and wake up before it is too late."

"The crisis taught us to start to depend on ourselves economically and politically," Mr. Khatib said. "And I hope that we will take advantage of that so we don't fall in the trap twice."

When asked about Jordan's position during and after the crisis, those questioned agreed that it had taken "an honourable stand for peace."

"We are like all the rest of the Third World countries; we are dictated upon by the stronger nations, and if the Soviet Union agreed to the new world order how can we — a small nation — fight it?" Mr. Afghani asked. "But we have certain principles that we don't compromise and our position during the crisis emphasised that," he added.

"We took a courageous and honourable stand for peace even though we are a small and poor country, and this made me very proud to say I am a Jordanian," Mr. Bokhari said.

"I don't agree with those who say that we were not weakened by our position, because we were," Mr. Khatib said. "I believe that aside from Iraq, Jordan and Yemen are the two countries that were most affected by the crisis."

He said that Jordan, like Iraq, faced an economic embargo that further weakened its already weak economy. "I don't believe we took the wrong stand, I believe that our stand was misinterpreted and misunderstood."

Updating of trade terms expected to minimise possibility of error

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT), Wednesday, organised a seminar on "incoterms 1990", a newly revised set of rules and trade terms for the interpretation of the most commonly used terms in foreign trade and contracts.

With Europe 1992 approaching, with economic barriers falling and Western Europe and the Soviet Union adapting to capitalist economic regimes and with computers becoming a necessary productivity tool, the ICC saw it was time to revise its international commercial terms that rule the relations between buyers and sellers.

According to Raymond Battersby, director of procedures at the Simpler Trade Procedures board (SITPRO), another reason that prompted the revision was "that there were two major defects with incoterms 1980."

They did not take into account the modern transportation techniques and did not cater for electronic data interchange, "which in the last four to five years, assumed greater importance in commercial and government trading," Mr. Battersby, who spoke at the seminar, said.

About 120 bankers, businessmen, lawyers and transport and shipping companies participated in the seminar.

Discussions included topics such as explaining individual terms, obligations for buyers and sellers and incoterms in the future.

The official release of incoterms 90 was July 1 1990 and

trading companies are expected to adopt them immediately. "The target date of enforcing their usage should be as soon as possible," Mr. Battersby said.

The implementation of incoterms will eliminate uncertainties of different interpretations of a particular term in different countries or at least reduce it to a considerable degree. Furthermore, according to Mr. Battersby, incoterms aim to increase efficiency, cost saving and competitiveness.

"What we are saying to people," said Mr. Battersby, who is on the trade terms working party, "is that if they build incoterms 90 into their sales contracts, then there will be a clear definition of what is required; for example they will know what their costs are and when delivery has been effected."

As for the enforcing of these trade terms worldwide, another speaker, Dave Green, manager-international and customs procedures for the Freight Transport Association in the United Kingdom, said that the ICC has national organisations in many countries, including Jordan, where they bring in experts to elaborate on the new terms and procedures.

Mr. Green and Mr. Battersby have already been to many countries educating concerned people on the new terms. "It is a major and long process, but over time, that message will come across to the trading companies," Mr. Green said.

The most important difference between the amended incoterms 90 and the incoterms 80 is that they now cater for the use of electronic data interchange rather than paper documents, Mr. Green told the Jordan Times. "We have also tried to make the terms more

appropriate to contemporary trading practices."

For example, he said, free on truck and rail are railway terms. But they have been widely misused and were applied to road transport. Another term, FOB aircraft (free on board) "was nonsense," Mr. Green, said "Because it required you to pass the goods across the ship's rail on an aircraft, which clearly does not exist on an aircraft."

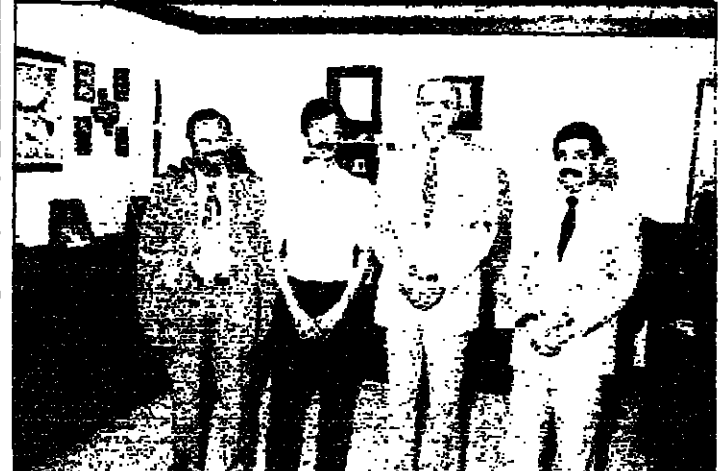
Another factor that renders the revision of incoterms more appropriate to today's environment is the widespread use of technology.

In the last few years, Mr. Green added, "We have seen a considerable move to the use of electronic means of transmission data rather than paper documents and that is certain to continue over the next decade."

Incoterms 90 thus comprises a set of internationally agreed standards for the interchange of structured data as related to the trading environment. "In this way the possibility of miskeying data that is being reinput to a computer and the possibility of transcription errors are eliminated if the data of one computer is directly transmitted into the second computer."

Since incoterms were first introduced in 1936, "there have been substantial changes in the way transportation has been dealt with and in the way documentation has been produced," Mr. Battersby said.

Thus, incoterms are modified often. "I would hope that the international trade can sit happily knowing that this revision (of 13 incoterms) can last for some time and that traders understand that incoterms are important commercially, whatever the circumstances," he added.



Mohammad Al Sahli, the father who made an appeal on the radio for a special baby milk formula, visits the Royal Jordanian (RJ) offices to thank for the promptitude with which it answered in providing the milk. Seated with him are RJ Director General Hussam Abu Ghazaleh (second right), RJ Vice President for Administrative Affairs Zuhair Dahman (first left) and (first right) RJ Medical Services Director Issam Salameh (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Baby milk brought in from the Netherlands

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the Royal Jordanian to provide a special baby milk formula, which is not available on the local markets, the RJ has managed to bring in four tonnes of the baby milk from the Netherlands.

The King's directives were prompted by an appeal made by the father of an infant who could not find the milk in the local market.

The man, Mohammad Al Sahli, made his appeal through a live radio programme.

Upon hearing the appeal, the King instructed the RJ to ask its various offices abroad to bring sufficient quantities of milk and asked the Health Ministry to arrange for providing this milk as soon as possible.

Touched by the King's immediate response, the infant's father

called at the Royal Court where he was received in audience by the King. He thanked the King for his paternal care and for his quick response to the appeal.

The King issued instructions that Mr. Sahli be given permanent comprehensive medical insurance.

Later, Mr. Sahli called at the RJ offices where he was received by RJ Director General Hussam Abu Ghazaleh, RJ Vice President for Administrative Affairs Zuhair Dahman and by the RJ Medical Services Director Issam Salameh.

Mr. Sahli thanked Mr. Abu Ghazaleh and the RJ for its prompt action.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh stressed that the RJ would continue to follow the path that King Hussein has charted for it, and would always play its role in serving the country.

Jordanian banks asked to submit definite offer for BCCI branches

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian banks interested in buying the branches in Jordan of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have been asked to submit definite offers to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in 10 days, informed sources said Friday.

The CBJ move came in reaffirmation of the government's decision not to order a liquidation of BCCI operations in Jordan, noted the sources, who said the CBJ request for specific offers came during a meeting held Thursday.

Representatives of seven leading Jordanian banks attended the meeting along with representatives of BCCI and a committee appointed by the CBJ to supervise the affairs of the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"The seven Jordanian banks, which have expressed interest in acquiring one or more of the BCCI branches, were asked to come up with definite individual offers for consideration by the CBJ," said one of the sources. "The Central Bank gave them 10 days to submit their offers in view of a sense of urgency in the field of banking," said the expert, who also preferred anonymity.

"That is of course not to justify BCCI actions or defend the bank," he asserted. "But the question nobody is asking in Jordan is why BCCI has been singled out on the international level..."

Dr. Maher Al Waked, ex-

According to a senior official, the CBJ is "keeping its options open and no decision has been made whether to sell all three branches to one single bank."

There is conviction in Jordanian banking circles that there is no threat to local depositors with the three BCCI branches and all liabilities of the bank are adequately covered.

Meanwhile, some political pundits and banking experts are raising questions over the broader issue of the European and American crackdown on BCCI, which is accused in Europe as well as the U.S. of running front operations for clandestine deals, including drug trafficking, gun-running and coffee-smuggling.

"Every international bank has its own skeletons in the cupboard and shady deals," argued one economic expert. "It will not be an exaggeration to say that the behind-the-scenes operations undertaken by BCCI could take a backseat to some of those carried out by some of international giants in the field of banking," said the expert, who also preferred anonymity.

"That is of course not to justify BCCI actions or defend the bank," he asserted. "But the question nobody is asking in Jordan is why BCCI has been singled out on the international level..."

Dr. Maher Al Waked, ex-

ecutive director of the Bank of Jordan, said he also thinks that there is "some element" of truth in charges that politics were at work behind the crackdown on BCCI.

But, he said, "I don't think politics — specifically that the BCCI is a Third World-owned institution with extensive connections in the Arab World — were the major reasons behind the move against the bank."

"Other international banks may or may not be involved in clandestine deals, but the magnitude of BCCI involvement was so visible that one cannot simply categorically argue that the Arab ownership and Third World management were the only factors behind the Western seizure of the bank," he said.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, a noted Jordanian analyst, said he believed that "there is indeed truth in charges that BCCI was involved in malpractices, but the timing of the move against the bank indicates that political forces could have been at work."

"It was known for quite some time that there were banking malpractices in BCCI, but the (West) was keeping a blind eye towards it," Dr. Fanek noted. "So now the sudden crackdown on the bank points to something more than just moving against a bank with malpractices."

Jordan intensifies efforts to protect Palestinians under occupation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan plans to issue an appeal to world conscience for measures to be taken providing protection to the Palestinian people living under Israeli rule in the occupied Arab territories, according to President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura.

Dr. Abu Qoura said he would issue the appeal during the forthcoming international conference by the Red Cross and Red Cres-

cent Societies, to be held in Budapest, Hungary, late this year.

"The Israeli authorities do not recognise the Fourth Geneva Convention which calls for the respect of civilian rights in occupied areas and do not apply them in the occupied regions," said Dr. Abu Qoura in his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Israel is defying world community and international principles, U.N. resolutions and those

of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)."

The International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent, he said, is held every four years to look into means of upgrading humanitarian services around the world.

The previous conference stressed the need for the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and urged the Israeli authorities to abide by that convention in the occupied Arab territories, said Dr. Abu Qoura.

He said that the international conference issued, repeated appeals in this respect when it convened in Istanbul in 1969, in Tehran in 1973, in Bucharest in 1977, in Manila in 1981, and in Geneva in 1987. But he said that the Israeli authorities have rejected the convention and is not respecting the rights of the civilian population under occupation.

Dr. Abu Qoura referred to a statistical bulletin issued by the ICRC on July 16 and said that it contained a list of violations by the Israeli authorities against the detained Arab citizens. The ICRC bulletin issued a call on the Israelis to abide by the international principles and laws in dealing with the detainees.



Her Highness Princess Muna Friday presents the Best Net Score group winner trophy to Roy Law (Photo by Sultan Abu Al Leil).

England wins polo competition

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mike Pike won the first prize of the Best Net Score Overall Players at the Jordan Bisharat Golf Course National Cup Competition held Friday.

England team "B" took the title of the Best Net Aggregate Score, followed by England team "A". Ireland team came in third place.

Pike scored 82 Gross — 61 Net and 21 Handicap — to take the overall title and to win two return tickets Amman-U.S., courtesy of British Airways.

England team "B" scored 199 Gross, team "A" scored 205 Gross and the Irish team scored 207 Gross.

The Best Net Score group win-

ner was Roy Law who scored 74 Gross — 62 Net and 12 Handicap — to win one first class return air ticket Amman-Far East, courtesy of Gulf Air.

He was followed by Japan's Yasunaga, who scored 81 Gross — 66 Net and 15 Handicap — to win one return air ticket Amman-London, courtesy of Royal Jordanian and Col. Gardiner came in the third. He scored 96 Gross — 69 Net and 27 Handicap — to win one return air ticket to Germany, courtesy of Lufthansa.

The trophies were presented by Her Highness Princess Muna.

The event, which attracted some 38 competitors, was sponsored by Hotel Jordan Intercontinental and organised by David Harj of the British Embassy in Amman.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Iraqi Artists Ibrahim Rashid and Mahdi Abdul Karim at Alla Art Gallery insurance building, 1st Circle.

REQUIRED

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Higher Education Council appointed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has appointed the following as members to the Higher Education Council for a period of three years as of July 13: Secretary General of the Higher Education Ministry Ahmad Al Basharesh as representative of the public community colleges, Dean of the Queen Abla College Samih Abu Maghli as representative of the private community colleges, Thouqan Al Hindawi, Abdul Salam Al Majali, Taher Kanaan, Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Raouf Abu Jabbar and Janet Al Mufli as members. The council is headed by the minister of Higher education.

The week in print

U.S. bears responsibility for just peace in Mideast

PEACE prospects in the Middle East region in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour and the U.S. administration's plans attracted most of the writers and the columnists in the Arabic press.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily placed the responsibility of forcing Israel to pull out its forces from the occupied territories and achieving a genuine peace in the region squarely on the U.S.-Soviet summit and the American-Soviet leadership which are sponsoring the peace process.

Salameh Ekour said that the superpowers should not allow Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to place obstacles in the form of the Palestinian representation because such obstacles can only lead to an abortive conference, an objective that would be welcomed by Israel. As long as U.S. President George Bush and his allies together with the Soviet Union have borne the responsibility of establishing peace through the implementation of the international legitimacy, the writer noted, they alone can force Israel to implement U.N. resolutions so as peace can prevail.

In the coming peace negotiations, the Arabs hold no trump card, especially in the absence of Iraq and the PLO, and the United States and Israel can exercise all sorts of pressure on the Arab parties, said columnist Faded Al Fanek. Writing in Al Ra'i daily, the columnist said that in the coming negotiations, the Americans and the Israelis can wrest any concessions they need in Israel's interests and the Arabs would not see an end to Israel's presence in the occupied Arab territories.

This gloomy picture is reflected in an article by Fakhr Kawaar who writes for Al Ra'i daily. The Arabs under the present circumstances are unable to impose their conditions and the coming negotiations would be simply between the murderer and the victim, the writer noted. As long as the murderer is holding the weapon and the victim is lying down helpless, no international legitimacy can be implemented and no justice can be established, said Mr. Kawaar.

Negotiations from a very weak stand is like giving in to the aggressors demand of remaining in our Arab lands for ever, although deep down we are demanding that the Israelis pull out from all Arab territories and the Palestinians have their own state in Palestine, the columnist said. He said that the whole question would be left to the future generations to settle and the Arabs should refrain from surrendering to Israel's demands and dictates.

The restoration of national rights and lands, said another columnist, can never be achieved through "embarrassing" the enemy with mere words because the aggressors do not understand this tactic.

Diyab Mikhadmeh said in Al Dustour that what has been taken by force can only be regained by the force of will, unity and deter-

mination. The writer echoed Mr. Kawaar's views that the Arabs should leave the question of regaining Arab rights to the future generations if the present ones are incapable of carrying out the mission with honour.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Americans paved the ground for Arab capitulation in the coming negotiations by first making sure that Iraq has no military power to lend a helping hand to its sister states. The Americans devastated Iraq's power and continues to impose an embargo on the Iraqis to isolate them from the rest of the Arab World thus paving the ground for easy negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, said Dr. Ahmad Al Khatib.

The writer said that the Arabs are indeed surprised over Washington's sudden assault on peace after remaining silent for more than a quarter of a century about Israel's occupation of Arab land in defiance of the international community's resolutions. But they should not be surprised because this feverish race for the peace negotiations is designed to exploit the consequences of the Gulf war for Israel's benefit and to ensure that the Arabs, who are now in total disarray, would succumb to Israel's terms and conditions, the writer noted.

It is clear that Israel is making one gain after the other at a time when the Arab side is offering one concession to the aggressors after another, said Khalil Sawahiri in Al Dustour daily. The writer said that since Mr. Baker started his Middle East tour it was clear that the U.S. administration wanted the Arabs to succumb to the Israeli will, after having dealt with the Iraqi threat to the Jewish state. Now that Israel is the sole predominant power in the region, said the writer, it can force the Arabs to cancel the PLO, forget about Israel's pullout from the occupied Arab lands, and consider U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as history. He said the Israelis can never stop the settlement programme in the Arab land and will continue to pursue aggressive policies for ever.

The discovery of a clandestine group planning and carrying out sabotage activity in Jordan was tackled by a number of columnists in the past week.

Bader Abdul Haq said that the creation of such groups can never be designed to liberate Palestine or Afghanistan as the group members had claimed but is rather a form of undermining the nation's security and stability. Mr. Abdul Haq, who writes for Al Ra'i, said that the group had been hiding behind Islamic slogans in order to legitimise its presence, but in reality the group members are in the pay of foreign elements bent on weakening the Arabs and destroying the democratic march.

His views were backed by Mousa Al Kilani, editor of Al Dustour daily, who said that the Islamic movement in Jordan was quick to denounce the clandestine group as a tool of foreign conspiracy designed to weaken Jordan. But, he said, the pre-

sence of such a group within the Jordanian society points to a dangerous imbalance and a gap between the new generation with its ideologies and the old established principles and traditions which ought to be bridged as soon as possible.

The car bomb attacks perpetrated by the clandestine group should remain as an isolated incident that would never be allowed to poison the atmosphere or destabilise the country's security, said the writer.

This view was also echoed by Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab. He said that blowing up cars and institutions and killing innocent civilians can only serve the interests of Israel and its American ally. He said he believed that such attacks were designed as part of the U.S.-Zionist alliance's pressure being exercised on Jordan. The writer said that the clandestine group must have exploited the democratic atmosphere prevailing in the Kingdom to carry out their criminal actions under Islamic names.

The question of acceptance of students at Jordanian universities was tackled by several columnists, with Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud urging the government to expand the basis for acceptance and to admit further numbers of students. The columnist said that the demand for higher education increases, it is only reasonable for Jordanian universities to open the door for the greatest number of students to attain their dream. Furthermore, the writer said, Jordanian universities have so far failed to link their education courses with the needs of the Jordanian society and the students who graduate every year cannot find jobs. New courses have to be created in required fields so that the large number of students can find employment, he added.

Nazih, another columnist for Al Ra'i said that not only the students will be concerned about getting seats at the universities but also their relatives and parents because there is a real competition for admission in view of the large number of students wishing to enrol. The writer said that the government ought to open the door for a greater number of students to enrol and should not link admission to the average grade of students.

Taber Al Udwan tackled the question of continued harassment of shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba and the delay in the arrival of goods at the port. The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the American naval vessels are still harassing Aqaba-bound ships despite the fact that the Gulf war is over and Kuwait is liberated again. The harassment, he noted, is clearly intended as a form of pressure on Jordan and not Iraq, with the Americans adopting a hostile attitude towards the Kingdom through the American embassy in Amman. America's hatred towards Iraq, the writer said, is now transformed into a hatred against Jordan and its people.

King voices hope over START

(Continued from page 1)

organisation accepted in principle the call, it also believes that "certain guarantees are needed to ensure that the conference is convened and that it will achieve success."

The spokesman said the conference should aim at the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognition of the legitimate national political rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

Palestinian participation in the peace conference, the spokesman said, should be determined by the PLO without any external intervention.

The PLO rejects any attempts to exclude the issue of Jerusalem and the representation of people from Jerusalem, the spokesman said. In addition, he said, Israel should also immediately halt its building of settlements in the occupied territories.

'Unprecedented progress'

(Continued from page 1)

"more work to be done."

The main sticking point in the progress towards a peace conference remains to be Palestinian representation and Israeli's insistence on barring certain Palestinians from the talks.

Official sources here said that Jordan was working on a formula which would surpass the difficulties posed by Israel's intransigence, including the issue of Palestinian representatives from East Jerusalem.

They expressed conviction that

the Palestine Liberation Organisation would not allow itself to be cornered into a "rejectionist position" after Israel announced its willingness to attend.

"A compromise will be worked out," a senior official told the Jordan Times adding that Jordan "will help in reaching an agreement."

Jordan, the official said, believes that East Jerusalem has to be represented within the joint delegation because it would symbolically "confirm the status of Jerusalem."

'White Paper' explains position

(Continued from page 1)

Security Council resolutions and the need for a diplomatic solution."

The White Paper argues that among all the Jordanian efforts to achieve an "Arab resolution" to the crisis, His Majesty's letter to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sep. 22, 1990 was the most significant. It was made clear to President Saddam Hussein that "Jordan and other Arab governments could not accept the acquisition of territory by war, not only as a matter of principle, but also because failure to maintain this principle could constitute a dangerous precedent of which Israel may take advantage with a consequent endangering of Jordan's national security and existence as well as an endangering of national security in general." The dangers of a military confrontation, not only to Iraq but to the entire Arab Nation, were also cited.

The paper shows that in reply to Jordanian requests, President Saddam Hussein was prepared to accept one of two possible solutions to the crisis: An Arab solution in which the two parties would sit down together and thus settle their differences as His Majesty had proposed during his Aug. 3 visit to Baghdad which was urged by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and endorsed by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. The alternative solution was an international one, as he had proposed

on Aug. 12: an international conference should be convened at which not only the question of Kuwait but also the problems of Palestine and Lebanon should be discussed. That proposal had been immediately rejected by both the United States and Great Britain.

The Jordanian document also states that when His Majesty King Hussein realised that all his country's efforts to avert the outbreak of war had failed, he addressed the Jordanian people on Jan. 15 stating that "the doors of reason have been shut and the avenues for an honest dialogue blocked."

A final message of hope and reconciliation was addressed to the Jordanian people by King Hussein on March 1, 1991. This address summed up the growth of the crisis from its beginning to the end of the war and the position of the Jordanian Government. "Our vision was clear from the outset of the disaster. We realised that the outcome would be if Iraq continued its occupation of Kuwait and if we failed to resolve the problem peacefully within the Arab framework. We tried our utmost to address and contain the problem... Most regrettably we were not successful... We knew we would pay dearly for standing on principle and for insisting on maintaining our freedom of action within the national context and as due to our geographical location."

Iraq rejects French draft

(Continued from page 1)

Cheney, threatening renewed U.S. military action against Iraq, said Friday Baghdad was still trying to conceal nuclear bomb-making equipment in defiance of the United Nations.

Iraq "made a very serious mistake over the past year in underestimating our determination to see to it that it complies with established norms of international behaviour," Mr. Cheney said on NBC Television.

"And if (Iraq) continues to operate on that basis, it would be another big mistake for (it)."

Under the terms of the ceasefire to which Iraq agreed after the Gulf war, Baghdad must declare and scrap all weapons of mass destruction.

In interviews with four television networks marking the first anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Mr. Cheney said, Iraq had yet to come clean on its nuclear programme.

'Jordan did all it could'

(Continued from page 1)

consent and not force," Mr. Hammad said.

Outspoken Irbid Deputy Hussein Mjalli said he felt that Jordanians should have taken a more active role in condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"It was a trap for the Arab World which we fell into. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was the road for foreign soldiers to come into the region in great numbers and take total control of the region's most precious natural resources," Mr. Mjalli said.

"Jordan should have applied more pressure on Iraq to withdraw quickly. The only way to save Iraq was to get it out of Kuwait before the war began," Mr. Mjalli added. "This is the only position which Jordan should have held more firmly otherwise it did all that was in its capacity of do."

Sharon

(Continued from page 1)

on has accelerated Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. The United States, Israel's guardian ally, calls the 100,000 settlers an obstacle to peace.

"In this matter I carry out the policy of the government according to its basic guidelines with the complete support of the prime minister," Mr. Sharon said.

Israeli papers Friday hailed Mr. Shamir's conditional assent to the U.S. proposals for peace talks.

They said his agreement — albeit dependent on solving the problem of who speaks for Palestinians — would please both the superpowers who pressed for it.

The U.S. would be more sympathetic next month to a request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees for housing an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The Soviet Union, newspapers said, might soon restore full diplomatic ties severed over the 1967 war.

And by joining Arab states in accepting a peace conference, Israel had shifted the onus to the one player yet to join in, the Palestinians, the papers wrote.

"The ball is in the Palestinians' hands," headlined the leftist daily Al Hamishmar.

The Friday papers, the biggest of the week because they precede the Sabbath, were packed with blow-by-blow accounts of how Mr. Shamir finally came to say yes.

They praised Mr. Baker for the coolness and tenacity needed to extract the affirmative response from Israel's rightist leader.

"He (Mr. Baker) came here to do what he did all his years as a lawyer — to persuade two feuding sides to come to the table for discussions," commentator Nahum Barnea wrote in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's biggest newspaper.

He added that all eyes had focused on Mr. Shamir, but the success belonged to Mr. Baker, who unemotionally appealed to the pragmatism of both Mr. Shamir and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad.

Yet all the newspapers warned that much work lay ahead for Israel, the Arab states and Washington.

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67154 67163 67253 68153 77153
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Capriati, Seles advance at Mazda tournament

CARLSBAD, California (AP)—Fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati dispatched error-prone Lori McNeil 6-2, 6-1 at the \$225,000 Mazda Classic.

The 15-year-old Capriati, who drew a first-round bye, neutralized McNeil's net game with passing shots and capitalized on her opponent's mistakes in the second-round match.

Earlier, top-ranked Monica Seles started strongly and then answered increased resistance from Anne Minter to advance to the semifinals with a 6-0, 6-3 victory.

Seles, playing her first tour event since pulling out of Wimbledon with an injured leg, will face the winner of Friday's match between third-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and sixth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat in the semifinals.

Capriati advanced to a quarterfinal match against fifth-seeded Zina Garrison, who beat Karine Quentrec 6-2, 6-1. In the other quarterfinal match, second-seeded Conchita Martinez will meet amateur qualifier Debbie Graham.

Capriati, ranked 10th in the world, set the early tone by following a winning lob with a strong passing shot in taking a 2-0 lead of McNeil's service.

"I wanted to return well and hit passing shots," said Capriati. "I thought I played well. I have been playing well."

After taking the first five games, Capriati had some lapses in dropping the next two, but then regained firm control.

McNeil, ranked 24th, committed two of her five double-faults in her final service game and fell victim to three service winners by Capriati in the deciding game.

"I made far too many mistakes," McNeil said. "I'm struggling with my serve, and I became more frustrated in this match." Seles, who has held the No. 1 ranking since March 11, needs to win the tournament to retain the top spot. In her previous eight tour events this year, she has reached the final each time claiming four titles.

The 17-year-old Yugoslav won eight straight games before Minter, ranked 60th, held service in a 14-point game. A pivotal mo-

ment, Seles felt, came when she missed a volley after taking the first two points.

"It was a pretty easy match, but I got a little mad at myself when it was two-love there," Seles said. "My mind totally went away and I lost my rhythm. After that, I had to keep on myself to concentrate."

After a tentative start, Minter improved her shot placement in the second set and approached the net on occasion with effectiveness. But the Australian couldn't break Seles' serve, forcing Seles to win the match. Seles, who had three aces and recorded eight service winners, also exhibited an array of winning placement shots.

"I haven't expected a lot of myself because I haven't played for so long," she said. "I'm surprised at how fast I could come back. But I'm going to keep working to get to a higher level."

Away from the official tour since winning the French Open on June 8, Seles said the two tournament matches here had not affected her left leg, which had been bothered by shin splints and a stress fracture.

Edberg, Sampras move in to Volvo semifinals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Top seed Stefan Edberg breezed to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over fellow Swede Peter Lundgren, advancing to the quarterfinals of the Volvo Tennis Tournament.

Second-seeded Pete Sampras also advanced with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka.

The only time Edberg was threatened was in the fourth game of the second set when Lundgren, up 2-1, had four break points against the world's No. 2-ranked player. But Edberg pulled through to win, then broke Lundgren in the seventh game at love.

"It was a good match for me," Edberg said. "I knew he (Lundgren) was going to get tougher and tougher. I started missing some first serves and he got tougher, which made for a closer match."

Edberg, the tourney's defending champion, meets No. 7 seed Aaron Krickstein Friday afternoon.

Matsuoka took a three-set victory from Sampras last week in the second round of the Canadian Open in Montreal. This time, however, the U.S. Open champion was in control throughout, relying on his booming serve.

Sampras went up a break in the first game of the second set and held serve the rest of the way. He won his last two service games at love, including his next-to-last game in which he served up three aces, two of which were clocked at 117 mph (184 kph) or faster.

"Today my serve was the best I've served in quite a while," he said. "I was going for it. I wasn't serving that well at the beginning of the match and it brought back some memories."

"His backhand is kind of funny, so I played more to his backhand than his forehand," Matsuoka agreed that Sampras' serve was more potent than it had been in Montreal.

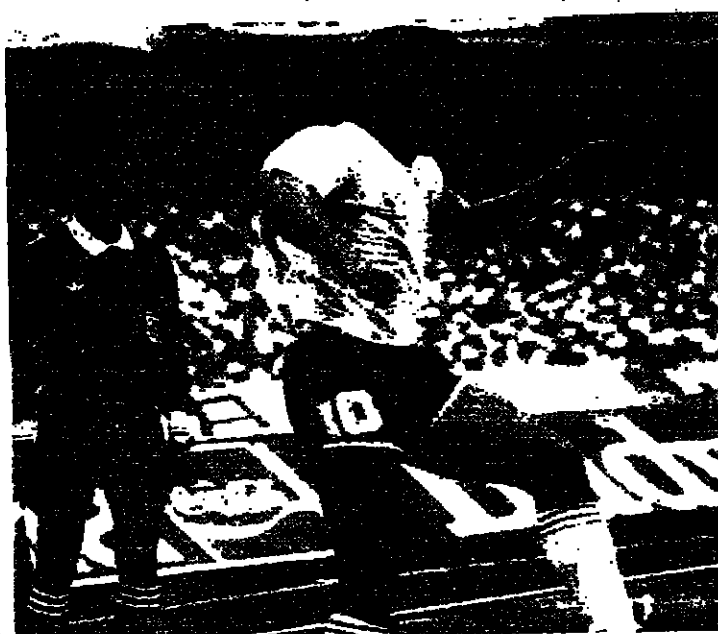
"He serves so well I couldn't touch it," he said. "He played well, especially his forehand. He wanted to win and he was more confident. Maybe I was reading his serve wrong."

Sampras will meet Amos Mandorff, the eighth seed, in the quarterfinals. Mandorff defeated Italy's Gianluca Pozzi 6-4, 6-3, fighting off all six break points against him.

Krickstein advanced by defeating Jason Stoltenberg of Australia 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

"I think my experience paid off," said Krickstein, the eighth seed. "I've beaten him three times before. I won a few big points. Whoever got up on break won the set."

Other quarterfinal pairings include No. 4 Brad Gilbert vs. qualifier Steve Bryan and Stefano Pescosolido, who upset third seed Michael Chang on Wednesday, vs. unseeded Scott Davis.



Diego Maradona

Maradona, bitter about drugs, spurns professional soccer

BUENOS AIRES (R)—A bitter Diego Maradona, banned from soccer until July 1992 for failing a dope test, said Thursday he will not return to the professional game.

"I will not play soccer professionally again," the former Argentina skipper told the private Continental Radio station. "For the time being it's an irrevocable decision."

A former street urchin who became one of the world's greatest soccer stars, Maradona was banned for 15 months by the International Football Federation and the Italian League in April after a post-match urine test revealed traces of cocaine.

Many of his loyal fans hoped he would stage a comeback, but on Thursday he said: "I find I don't enjoy myself anymore."

Maradona, 30, rose to prominence when he led Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup. He also captained his Napoli Club to its first ever Italian League championship.

Shortly after his suspension, the fallen star returned to Argentina saying he wanted to quit because he was sick of the pressure and the discipline. His contract with Napoli binds him to the club until 1993.

A few weeks after returning home Maradona was arrested for cocaine possession and for supplying the drug free to others. He was released on bail after 30 hours in custody and faces up to 12 years in jail if found guilty.

Maradona, who is undergoing drug rehabilitation, was bitter about the criticism his drug problems have cost him.

"I'm not hiding my problem with drugs, but it's not fair for someone who trips and falls in the street to lay the blame on drugs or on what happened to Maradona," he said.

He added: "There is something deeper here than simply having taken cocaine, there is something else that's not called Maradona. This country lacks a drug culture and I am having to pay for it and that is not fair."

Maradona also faces charges in Italy, where he is being investiga-

tion in connection with Neapolitan drug and prostitution ring. His career had gone downhill after Argentina lost the 1990 World Cup final to West Germany.

Maradona had a series of problems with his Italian League club when he began missing training sessions and arriving late for matches.

Once a UNICEF representative and a goodwill ambassador of his country, Maradona's life seemed to fall to pieces on the night of April 26 when local television showed police arresting him for cocaine possession.

A week ago Maradona told an interviewer that he had not decided whether he would ever play professionally again.

This week he seemed closer to returning when he started working out with his old Boca Juniors Club. His father even told reporters at a training session that Maradona was "dying to play in the 1994 World Cup."

But Maradona ruled that out Thursday.

"The Argentine national team is also a closed chapter for me," he said. "I think it's time to make room for younger players and Argentina has good ones like Leonardo Rodriguez and Diego Latorre to replace me."

Rodriguez and Latorre were key midfielders of the Argentine team which won the South American Copa American tournament in Chile last month.

Maradona said he could no longer bear the responsibility of playing professionally.

"I'm not blaming soccer but everything that surrounds soccer and I am scared of having to face a situation of that kind," he said.

Among his plans for the future are setting up soccer clinics in the northern province of Corrientes, where his family lives, and in Cuba.

"I want kids there to get soccer running in their blood," he said. Maradona said he still intended to play a charity match Saturday with a team of retired soccer stars against a squad of local actors to raise funds for a Buenos Aires hospital.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 1991

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to be alert to whatever advanced matters arise that can bring your own personal desires right into your lap for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find much stirring and activity in behind the scenes interest that can rid you of what is unwanted and quietly place new activities into the scope of your influence.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You certainly have a chance to have some very happy moments with good friends now as well as meet an acquaintance through whom you can get a big kick.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look into the various outlets of expression in the world of outside activity that can bring you closer to your true heart's desire.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you find you have every sort of need to bring to light the many longings you have been thinking about but that you have done nothing to conclude.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day to make a point to listen to that prophetic insight that is so deep a part of your life right now so take stock of what your hunches are.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever arrangements you want to make with a partner can now be quickly put in motion in the manner in which both of you are satisfied.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This day can well find you doing the things for others that shows you can forget yourself in doing for them and make yourself very popular.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your time to first decide the principles under which you wish to live in the days ahead and go off to recreations you enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have a day when you can be very basic in looking about you and in making the changes that can bring you more happiness later.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Attending studies of your choice and then be off to see those who have the same interests as yourself to make this a banner day of happiness.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to increase your consciousness of abundance if you are to have more of this world's goods so think less of the small sums and think of big ventures.

U.S., Yugoslavia advance in junior basketball tournament

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)—Bryan Caver scored 17 points as the United States advanced to the medal round of the World Junior Basketball Championships with a 94-78 victory over Brazil.

Jamal Faulkner added 16 points as the U.S. won its third game of the second round and is 6-0 for the tournament.

"I thought for 40 minutes we had our best intensity and best awareness," U.S. Coach Lon Kruger said. "We knew we had to play better and play our best to beat Brazil."

The U.S. led 54-38 at the half and was never threatened. The Americans will face Yugoslavia, who advanced despite losing to Spain 99-95.

Brazil closed within nine points with four minutes remaining, but could get no closer.

Rogelio Klafke led the way for Brazil with 22 points and Andre Matoso da Silva added 16.

Italy also reached the medal round, posting a 96-89 victory over Romania. The Italians, who are also undefeated in the tournament, came from 15 points down to defeat the surprising Romanians, in their first-ever world junior event.

Paolo Calbini had 20 points to lead Italy, while Massimo Ruggeri added 13 for the European junior champs.

U.S. athletics team to take on French record holders

MONACO (Agencies)—France fields three members of their world record-breaking sprint relay quartet at Saturday's Monaco Athletics Grand Prix meeting in a race also featuring the Santa Monica Track Club.

The Americans made several fruitless attempts on the world mark last year before France smashed the record at the European Championships in Split, Yugoslavia.

For France, Daniel Sangouma, who clocked 8.90 seconds in an inspired second leg in Split, Jean-Charles Trouabal and anchorman Bruno Marie Rose combine with Gilles Quenherve in place of Max Morierne.

Santa Monica field Olympic champion Carl Lewis and World record holder Leroy Burrell along with Floyd Heard and Mike Marsh.

Ben Johnson, once the world's fastest man, has been included in Canada's relay squad although he did not turn up here as scheduled Thursday after apparently missing his flight.

Since serving a two-year ban for steroid use, Johnson has struggled to recapture even a semblance of his former explosive speed and he will not be representing his country in the 100 metres at next month's Tokyo World Championships.

Monaco is the penultimate Grand Prix event before Tokyo and several of the world's top sprinters and hurdlers have been attracted by the prospect of clear, hot weather and attractive appearance money.

Britons John Regis and Roger Black, European champions over 200 and 400 metres, test themselves in their specialist events

against Americans Michael Johnson and Antonio Pettigrew respectively.

The strength of American high hurdling is underlined by the presence of Tony Dees, fastest man in the world this year but unable to make the U.S. team for Tokyo.

In the 400 metres hurdles Tokyo favourite Danny Harris runs against fellow-American and Olympic champion Andre Phillips plus Britain's European gold medalist Kris Akabusi.

The women's 200 metres features Jamaican Herlene Ottey, the world number one for the past two years.

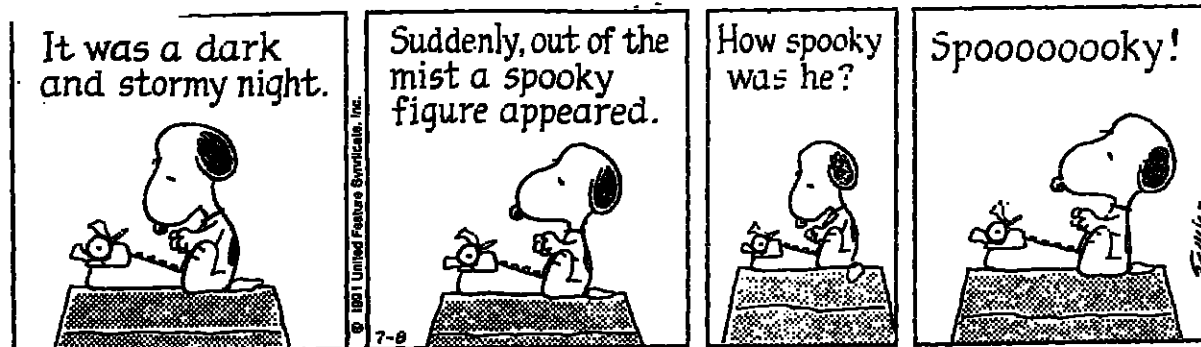
Drechsler leapt 7.37 metres, the best so far this year, to win the women's long jump at an International Athletics meeting in Sestriere, Italy, Wednesday.

The former world record holder beat the previous season's best of 7.24 metres which she shared with Larisa Berezhnaya of the Soviet Union. Berezhnaya was second with a leap of 7.19 metres Wednesday.

Drechsler, 26, aided by a following wind of 1.8 metres per second and the thin air at this Italian ski resort 2,000 metres above sea level, saved her best leap for her sixth and final jump after recording 7.33 metres with her second attempt.

Carl Lewis's hopes of beating fellow-American Bob Beamon's 23-year old men's long jump world record dimmed as cold winds blew thick clouds and rain across Sestriere midway through the meeting.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K5 ♠K109532 ♠K6 ♠K105
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Since partner does not promise more than five spades on this sequence, and not necessarily good ones, the choice really lies between two no trump and three hearts. Since our six-card suit leaves a lot to be desired, we opt to protect our kings from the opening lead by bidding two no trump.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A9873 ♠5 ♠A102 ♠AK98
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
A.—Your hand is too powerful for any spade raise. We won't blame you greatly if you launched directly into Blackwood, but that could result in missing a grand slam or, worse, bidding a small slam that has no play. We suggest you start with a jump shift of three clubs.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♠AQ109532 ♠A63 ♠A9
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-bid in spades. What action do you take?
A.—With a hand rich in both playing and defensive tricks, you have two choices—four hearts or double. The problem with a double is that, if the left-hand opponent raises the preempt to four spades, you will have to make a decision at an elevated level when you haven't even shown your seven-card suit!

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:
♠9 ♠AQ109532 ♠A63 ♠A9
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass
Pass ?
—weak
What action do you take?
A.—Now you have an easy choice—double. This sequence describes a hand with a long suit and solid defensive values. Partner should be well placed to make an intelligent decision.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ7 ♠Q6 ♠AQJ1065 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Three diamonds, four diamonds or three no trump are possible, but we like a takeout double. Obviously, we will correct any bid partner makes, even spades, to diamonds. Three diamonds is an undebated, four diamonds bypasses three no trump and three no trump is too rich for our blood.

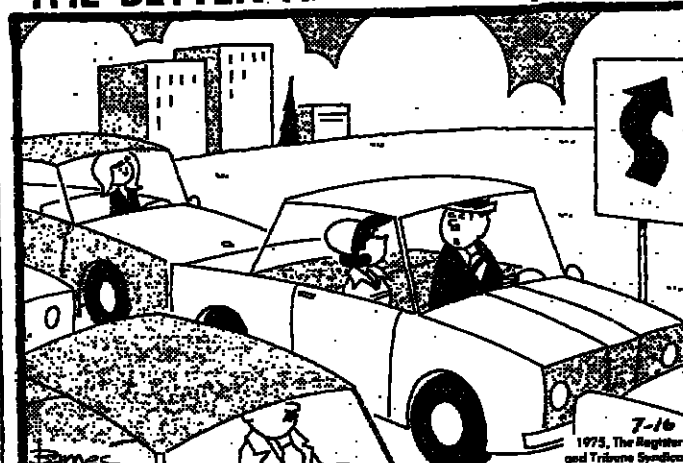
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q83 ♠7 ♠AK6 ♠AKJ1076
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
?
What do you bid now?
A.—The obvious bid seems to be a jump to three clubs, but since that is not forcing it could result in missing a spade game. We prefer a reverse of two diamonds, which creates a one-round force in the modern style. If partner can rebid spades, our problems are solved.

What a perfect combination,
my birth stone & I!

World Resources Dept. & Co. Inc.
Jewellers - Gems

Annex: Rio De Janeiro
Amman: Amman Hotel - Bn. circle

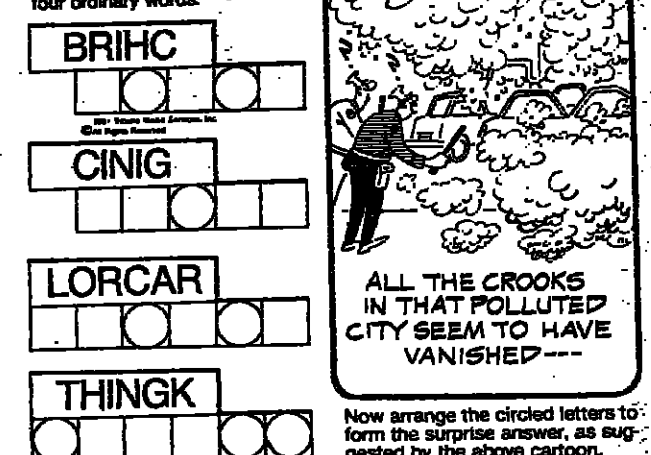
THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"Would you drive a while, dear? I need to cure my hiccups."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

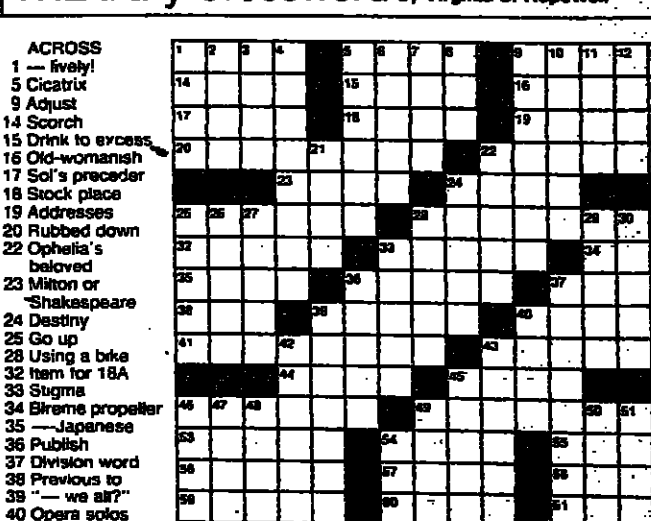
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: INTO

Saturday's Jumbles: BATCH LADLE HARDO DROPSY
Answer: She wouldn't marry that go-getter because she was with a guy who ALREADY HAD IT

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia B. Hopewell



DOWN

- 1 Corn game
- 2 Corn game
- 3 Corn game
- 4 Corn game
- 5 Corn game
- 6 Corn game
- 7 Corn game
- 8 Corn game
- 9 Corn game
- 10 Corn game
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ACROSS

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Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close (Jul 31/7/1991)	Tel Aviv Close (Jul 1/8/1991)
Sterling Pound	1.6895	1.6865
Deutsche Mark	1.7455	1.7445
Swiss Franc	1.5255	1.5253
French Franc	5.9295	6.9350 **
Japanese Yen	157.42	157.22
European Currency Unit	1.1775	1.1765 **

** Bid for CTE
* European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.05	6.12	6.45
Sterling Pound	11.00	11.00	10.87	10.81
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.15	9.43	9.50
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.61	7.11	7.45
French Franc	9.50	9.62	9.68	9.75
Japanese Yen	7.34	7.31	7.12	7.07
European Currency Unit	9.81	10.60	10.26	10.26

Interbank bid rates for immediate settlement (100 million units or equivalent)

Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	364.05	6.95	Silver	4.09	0.95

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 1/8/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.557	.565
Sterling Pound	1.1567	1.1575
Deutsche Mark	.3948	.3956
Swiss Franc	.4529	.4532
French Franc	.1157	.1163
Japanese Yen	.5086	.5097
Dutch Guilder	.3491	.3508
Swedish Krona	.1535	.1540
Italian Lira	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01406	.01418

Per 100
Other Currencies Date: 1/8/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7860	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0790
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1865
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1865
Greek Drachma	.3500	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

Per 100
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	30/7/1991 Close	31/7/1991 Close
All-Share	109.84	109.82
Banking Sector	103.79	104.41
Insurance Sector	119.10	119.10
Industry Sector	115.09	115.09
Services Sector	127.26	127.45

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6621/57	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1504/09	Canadian dollar
	1.7660/70	Deutsche marks
	1.9840/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5419/25	Swiss francs
	36.32/36	Belgian francs
	6.0020/70	French francs
	1318/1319	Italian lire
	138.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.3950/4000	Swedish crowns
	6.8840/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.8275/25	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	360.40/360.90	U.S. dollars

IMF, World Bank chiefs win 25% pay raise

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank agreed Thursday to increase the annual salaries of their top executives by more than 25 per cent to \$285,000, sources at the two organisations said.

The United States and Canada objected to the \$60,000 increase as excessive but were overruled by other members of the IMF and World Bank boards in separate votes, they said.

Washington and Ottawa argued for a pay increase closer to the 16 per cent rise in the cost of living since the last wage hike three years ago. That would have translated into an annual salary of between \$260,000 and \$270,000.

Several sources said IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus was the driving force behind the pay raise.

The sources said Mr. Camdessus wanted his pay to match that of Jacques Attali, another Frenchman who heads the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. That bank set up to aid eastern Europe, began operations earlier this year.

The pay of IMF and World Bank staff is tax-free for foreigners although U.S. citizens pay tax.

BCCI scandal exposes global banking gap

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Vice Chairman David Mullins called for changes in the way international banks are regulated to prevent a repeat of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) scandal.

The number two man at the U.S. central bank said BCCI was able to slip through the regulatory net because no one country was responsible for overseeing all its operations.

"That's the major lesson," he said in an interview. "It's not sufficient to look at the pieces. You need someone taking responsibility for the entire entity."

BCCI was indicted last month on criminal charges for running what was called the "largest bank fraud in world financial history" and slapped with a record \$200 million fine by the Federal Reserve for violating U.S. banking laws.

The bank — founded in Pakistan in 1972 with operations in more than 70 countries — is alleged to have been tied to drug barons, terrorists, arms dealers and intelligence agencies, and to have robbed depositors of billions.

Mr. Mullins said that every major international bank needs a primary supervisor and a monetary authority willing to act as a "lender of last resort" should it

face a financing squeeze. Regulators should refuse to license any bank to operate in their country that doesn't meet those criteria, he added.

Because BCCI did not have a central bank backing it up, its collapse could have disrupted the multi-billion dollar payments network that links commercial banks worldwide and hurt the world economy.

"We were quite fortunate," Mr. Mullins said. "We've seen no damage to the global payments systems."

He said that BCCI was apparently set up in such a way so as to avoid coming under the purview of any one regulator.

The parent company of BCCI is a Luxembourg holding company which is not classified as a bank and thus is not subject to regulation there. Its banking operations are split between two main subsidiaries — in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands.

That meant that regulators only oversaw the bank's operations in their own country and no one had an overall view.

"Under normal circumstances it might not be so critical," he added. "But we're vulnerable to some one setting up an institution intentionally to exploit that loophole."

International banking regulators were aware years ago that

BCCI did not come under the purview of any one regulator but it was not thought to be so critical. To change that, regulators would have had to put restraints on each other.

"But if you don't go to those lengths, you're vulnerable," Mr. Mullins said.

He said he expects central bank representatives who meet regularly in Basle, Switzerland, to take action to close the loophole.

He added that he was not aware of any other large bank in the same position as BCCI, not responsible to any one supervisor.

Drug warlord may lose \$300m in BCCI collapse

BANGKOK (R) — Drug warlord Khun Sa banked at BCCI. That military source and an associate of the Burma-based Mr. Khun Sa, who has been called the world's leading heroin supplier, said he used to draw cheques on the scandal-ridden bank. He has been convicted in absentia in the United States of drug trafficking. Mr. Khun Sa, who Thai sources say has at least 8,000 men under arms, stood to lose \$300 million from the failure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), the associate told Reuters. His BCCI accounts were fed from Taiwan and Hong Kong, the associate said. "I myself do not have the deep details but one thing I can confirm for you is that he used the BCCI to transact his money," the associate said. Mr. Khun Sa spends \$20,000 a day to support his army, the associate said. In recent days, the warlord, who is half Chinese and half ethnic Shan, has cut back on spending, the associate said. A senior Thai military source said Mr. Khun Sa bought a large shipment of weapons from a Thai syndicate two years ago and paid with a cheque drawn on BCCI.

IMF finds Romania moving fast on track to market economy

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania is moving fast towards building a market economy 20 months after the collapse of communist rule, a senior International Monetary Fund (IMF) official has said.

"All policies are on track and the government's reform programme appears to be on the right track," IMF Assistant Director Moshin Khan told Reuters. The chief disappointment was the country's economic decline, and that was largely the result of external factors, he said.

He said the fund had already disbursed \$600 million out of a promised \$900 million financial package to back Romania's reform policies.

This included about \$350 million in oil import assistance which Romania got in March under the fund's so-called contingency and compensatory financing facility (CCFF).

The remaining \$300 million would be disbursed in separate tranches, Mr. Khan said.

"What is disappointing — and that is not a reflection on the authorities by any means — is the fact that economic performance has not been what we expected," Mr. Khan said.

Romania's economic decline was due mainly to external factors — the lack of foreign capital investment and the collapse of trade within the defunct Moscow-led Comecon economic and trade alliance, he said.

According to official statistics, Romania's industrial production in the first half of 1991 fell 17 per cent compared with the first half of 1990.

But Romania was sticking to its pledge to keep the rate of inflation to an agreed margin of 10 to 15 per cent by the end of 1991.

"According to the latest data we had, inflation was only two per cent in June," Mr. Khan said.

"The government has kept all its reform policy pledges, and in many respects they've gone even further than we had agreed to," he said.

Business failures in U.S. rise 50%

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty per cent more business failed in the first six months of this year than in the first half of 1990, reflecting the impact of the recession, the Dun-and-Bradstreet Corp. has reported.

The biggest increase was among transportation and utility companies, where failures increased 54 per cent to 1,894. Failures in the service sector grew 51 per cent, while the number of failing manufacturers rose 36.5 per cent, the business information company said in a survey.

"Business failures continued to climb across the U.S. during the first half of the year, particularly along the east and west coasts," said Joseph Duncan, Dun's corporate economist. But he said the rate of increase has slowed, with the number of failures in June only 31 per cent compared with 52 per cent in May.

For the purposes of the survey, Dun-and-Bradstreet said it defined failures as companies that went out of business owing money or sought bankruptcy court protection from creditors.

Overall, 43,014 businesses failed in the first six months, Dun-and-Bradstreet said, up 50 per cent from 28,669 in the first half of 1990.

The biggest increase was in New England, up 93.6 per cent to 2,675 failures. Bankruptcies in the middle Atlantic states were up 79 per cent, while failures in the Pacific states grew 75 per cent.

The healthiest region appeared to be the west south central states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, where the rate of failure was up only 12 per cent.

Business failures rose 50 per cent among finance, insurance and real estate companies. Failures were up 45 per cent in construction, 40 per cent in wholesale trade, 34 per cent in retail trade and 33 per cent in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Finance, insurance and real estate failures increased the most in the middle Atlantic region, up 241 per cent, while manufacturing failures in New England climbed the most, up 69 per cent.

Dun-and-Bradstreet is a leading marketer of business information and related services.



Birgit Breuel

Treuhand fires 1,400 managers in eastern Germany

BERLIN (R) — The state-run Treuhand privatisation agency has since unification fired 1,400 managers of eastern German industries under its control, many because of their past as Communist Party appointees or police spies.

"We expect many more dismissals," Treuhand President Birgit Breuel told a news conference. The Treuhand has been delegated to sell off or shut down about 10,000 east German state enterprises in the world's biggest privatisation programme.

About 400 managers were dropped because of a Stalinist background deemed unacceptable in a market economy, Ms. Breuel said. Many tried to cover up past membership in the Stasi security police.

"I can readily understand the dismay of eastern German citizens when they see former senior communist cadres still holding top posts in these companies," she said.

Another 400 were dismissed for sheer incompetence and 100 for dishonesty, including fraud. The remaining 500 were axed in redundancy cuts, Ms. Breuel said.

Under communism, east German state enterprises were heavily overmanned in both management and workforce because of a policy of 100 per cent employment.

Official unemployment is now 9.2 per cent but more than 20 per cent of the workforce are on state-funded short-time work, effectively paid to do nothing.

The majority of managers in east German companies under Treuhand jurisdiction are former communists appointed by the orthodox regime toppled in a popular uprising in 1989.

Trades unions say their incompetence and old-boy favouritism has contributed to mass layoffs in troubled industries.

Ms. Breuel also launched a recruitment drive for experienced western German executives to take over east German firms struggling to survive in a competitive environment.

"We have begun a precautionary search ... for thousands who will certainly be needed (to revive eastern firms). What we need is a balance of wisdom between east and west Germans," said Ms. Breuel, a former west German regional economics minister.

She said 35 former Stasi agents had been fired from the Treuhand executive itself.

European airlines post disappointing half year results

BRUSSELS (R) — European airlines Thursday reported their most disappointing passenger figures in nearly a decade.

The 22-member Association of European Airlines (AEA) said the number of passengers carried was down 11.2 per cent in the first six months compared with the first half of last year.

"It is the first time since the last oil crisis in the early 1980s that the AEA airlines experienced such a drop in passenger growth," the Brussels-based AEA said in a statement.

It blamed the slow recovery, which also affected June traffic, on a difficult economic climate. Traffic on North Atlantic routes — the AEA's major market — was volatile. A four per cent recovery in May was not matched in June when traffic dropped 9.7 per cent.

Passenger traffic in Europe was down in June by 4.9 per cent from the same month last year compared with being down 9.4 per cent in May. Traffic in Asia grew from being down 12.7 per cent in May to minus 7.6 per cent in June, it said.

It added growth in the cargo sector on Asian routes operated by AEA carriers was counterbalanced by a decrease on the North Atlantic, with a resulting global loss of 2.8 per cent.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said Wednesday that passenger traffic carried by the world's leading airlines in the first six months of this year was 10 per cent below 1990 levels despite a slight improvement since May.

Freight traffic fared better, registering a decline of only two per cent over the same period, IATA said in its latest updated survey of the airline industry, hit by the joint effects of economic recession and the Gulf war.

An IATA statement quoted the association's Director General Guenter Eser as saying: "There is a slight positive trend since May, but June has not yet brought the marked breakthrough in passenger traffic that the industry is seeking."

Cargo carried by IATA's 200 member airlines in June reached the level of the same month last year, but passenger traffic was still four per cent down on June 1990, IATA said.

Mr. Eser said: "A prognosis is very difficult at this stage. Solid growth rates are not yet in sight. And from now until the end of 1991 carriers would have to register nearly eight per cent growth in their total traffic — merely in order to carry the same traffic for the year as a whole as in 1990."

South Korean trade deficit widens to \$6 b

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean imports grew sharply in July, casting doubts that the government can hold the 1991 trade deficit to \$6 billion.

Officials at the ministry of trade and industry said merchandise exports in the first 23 days of July totalled \$3.38 billion while imports jumped to \$5.26 billion, creating a trade deficit of \$1.88 billion.

If that trend continues, the July deficit alone will exceed \$2 billion, officials said.

South Korea's trade deficit in the first six months of the year totalled \$6.34 billion, 2.3 times last year's level.

Government officials had said they hoped exports would pick up in the latter part of this year, holding the 1991 trade deficit to between \$6 billion and \$7 billion.

South Korea recorded a trade shortfall of \$4.83 billion last year.

Meanwhile, the government has worked out a 15-year plan to more than double South Korea's power-generating capacity to keep up with the nation's spectacular economic growth, officials said.

Officials at the energy-resources ministry said the \$62.3 billion plan will be finalised in August after approval by the cabinet.

The plan, to be launched in 1992, calls for the nation's power-generating capacity to increase from the present 21.2 million kilowatts to 58.6 million kilowatts by 2006, they said.

Under the plan, 18 more nuclear, 28 thermal and 14 liquefied natural gas fuelled power plants will be constructed, they said.

South Korea currently produces nearly 50 per cent of its power from nuclear plants.

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Consists of two bedrooms, large salon, two bathrooms and a kitchen. Deluxe furniture. Location: Al Hussein Housing Estate.

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Please call tel. 688289

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In Shmeisani. Three bedrooms, three bathrooms, spacious hall and dining room, modern kitchen. Separate central heating and telephone.

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Hitachi HL 400 Laptop computer. Brand new, 12 MHz microprocessor, 20 mb (3 1/2 inch) hard disk. 3 1/2 floppy disk drive. Complete with carrying case. JD1,100.

Phone: 819867 after 7:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

LAMBADA

Show: 3:30, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.

WISE GUYS

Show: 5:15, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NJOUM

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini
Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Julia Roberts

MYSTIC PIZZA

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

TOM SELLECK — IN
RUNAWAY

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

SOUND AND LIGHT AT JERASH

Will reopen August 3/1991 evenings at 8:30 as follows:

★ Arabic on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

★ English on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Tickets on sale at site for JD 1 (children up to 12 years old only 100 fils).

Mandela urges government to quit or all talks will end

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said Thursday that the South African government could no longer be trusted and told it to step aside in favour of an interim government or face the end of talks with his movement.

"The only way to non-racial democracy in South Africa is that of an interim government. If (President F.W.) de Klerk and his regime are not prepared to accept this demand they must learn there can be no further discussion between them and ourselves," Mr. Mandela told a news conference on the first day of a visit to Brazil.

Earlier in the day, ANC Deputy President Walter Sisulu had said only that the removal of the government was "the best way."

Mr. De Klerk, at a news conference Tuesday dealing with the secret state funding of the Inkatha Freedom Party, repeated that he would not hand over power to a "temporary regime" though he said he would consider

transitional arrangements to stop the government from misusing its power during talks.

"During the last 18 months we tried to urge the government to sit down with us and to search for a peaceful settlement of our affairs," Mr. Mandela said. "We have tried to build mutual confidence between blacks and whites."

"But," he continued, "on the 19th, the day I left South Africa (for a foreign tour) it became clear that white-minority rule in South Africa was unable to act honourably."

Mr. Mandela was referring to a scandal in South Africa which broke when Mr. De Klerk's government admitted it had made secret payments to the Inkatha Movement, the ANC's main rival. The press disclosure of the payments had led to the worst crisis of Mr. De Klerk's two-year tenure.

Mr. Mandela said the episode showed that "the tradition of intrigue, deceit and false prop-

aganda is something from which they (the South African government) can never extricate themselves."

For this reason, he added, the ANC was insisting on its demand for a temporary government made up of representatives from all parties to supervise South Africa's transition from apartheid state to non-racial democracy.

"The demand for an all-party congress and for an interim government had become a crucial matter in South Africa," Mr. Mandela told reporters. "Almost everything that ... we have mapped out for ourselves in the country is going to revolve around the demand for an interim government."

Meanwhile South African newspaper said Friday that security services meddled in Zulu politics from the early 1970s to form a bulwark against the ANC.

The anti-apartheid Weekly Mail, which exposed the while government's covert funding of the Inkatha Freedom Party, said

in its latest edition it had uncovered further links between Inkatha and Pretoria's spy networks.

It quoted Martin Dolinchev, a senior government spy who defected to the ANC in the 1980s, as saying his intelligence network set up an office in the KwaZulu homeland in 1974 to provide security and surveillance services to Inkatha.

"They undertook any investigation of an intelligence nature which emanated from (Inkatha) chief Mangosuthu Buthe's office," Mr. Dolinchev, interviewed in the Zambian capital Lusaka, told the newspaper.

An Inkatha spokesman, Musa Myeni, said Friday the newspaper report and Mr. Dolinchev's allegations were "a pack of lies."

The Weekly Mail also alleged that Mr. De Klerk, whose reformist administration has been rocked by the Inkatha funding scandal, had not yet come clean on the extent of the government's support for anti-ANC groups.

21 reported dead as Yugoslav tanks hit Croatian village

ZAGREB (R) — At least 21 people were feared dead after Yugoslav army tanks pounded a border village after crossing into breakaway Croatia from Serbia, police and witnesses said.

A Croatian police spokesman said it was likely 15 policemen were killed after their police station was flattened in the village of Dalj in Thursday's attack.

A Yugoslav photographer said he saw six other bodies identified by local people as Serbs.

Dalj is at the centre of a flash-point area between Croatian security forces and Serbian guerrillas inside Croatia who are fighting the rebel republic's drive for independence from Yugoslavia.

Luxembourg's foreign minister said European military in-

tervention might be needed to stop Yugoslavia's partition.

"We have to try to stop it because partition is not a solution — because if it starts in Croatia, it will continue, so all the internal and external borders of Yugoslavia will be put in question," the minister, Jacques Poos, said on Britain's Channel Four news.

Mr. Poos is one of three European Community foreign ministers who were expected to travel to Yugoslavia in a fresh bid to avert a slide into civil war.

Some 200 people have died in fighting which erupted after declarations of independence by Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia on June 25.

The police spokesman, speak-

ing from regional headquarters in Osijek, said Dalj was still too dangerous for Croatian forces to enter and establish an exact casualty toll.

At least 20 tanks based in Serbia took part in attacks on Dalj and other towns in eastern Croatia, he said.

The involvement of the army infuriated the government in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, where the republic's president, Franjo Tudjman, admitted to parliament that the police and National Guard lacked the weapons to fight an all-out war.

Croatian leaders are convinced the Serbian-led army is helping the guerrillas who are seeking to establish territorial strongholds for the 600,000-strong Serbian minority in Croatia.

U.S. says 'special privileges' may be at stake if bases in Philippines close

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines' close relationship with the United States will be endangered if the Philippine Senate rejects an agreement allowing the U.S. Navy to keep Subic Bay Naval Base, a U.S. official said Friday.

"This is not a threat," embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger said in a radio interview. "This is reality. There is a political element in this thing."

On July 17, the United States and the Philippines announced an agreement under which the Americans would give up Clark Air Base in September 1992 but keep Subic for another 10 years for \$203 million annually.

Both bases were heavily dam-

aged by eruptions of Mount Pinatubo in June. The volcano is 16 kilometres west of Clark.

But the agreement must be ratified by two-thirds of the 23-member Senate. Sixteen senators oppose the agreement, complaining that the compensation figure is too low and the 10-year extension too long.

The current agreement expires on Sept. 16, and presidential Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon says the Americans must leave both bases if the Senate does not approve the extension by then.

"What gives the Philippines the status to some degree in the United States is that we are partners in this security relationship

and this relationship ensures U.S. support for continued stability in the Philippines," Mr. Schragger said.

In a briefing for Philippine journalists, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kenneth Quinn said Thursday that the United States would vacate Subic as soon as possible if the Senate rejects the treaty.

"President George Bush and Secretary (James) Baker are not going to be vengeful," the newspaper Manila quoted Mr. Quinn as saying. "But obviously our withdrawal will have some effect ... there are things that we don't have to do" to help the Philippines.

Rebels, troops battle close to Sri Lankan camp

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops and Tamil rebels were locked in fierce combat Friday near a northern army camp that has been under rebel siege for more than three weeks, a military spokesman said.

"We are trying to draw out as many terrorists as possible and kill them before going into the camp," he said.

About 150 rebels were killed and 24 soldiers wounded Thursday in fighting for the base at Elephant Pass, the spokesman said.

More than 150 government soldiers and an estimated 1,925 rebels have died in the three-week battle, the military said.

Military reports on the fighting and casualties could not be verified by independent or rebel sources.

About 800 soldiers have been pinned down in the camp by

rocket and small arms fire from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group, besieging the base since July 10.

An anti-aircraft weapon with a range of about 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) acquired by the rebels recently has prevented army helicopters from landing in the camp to rescue 55 wounded soldiers.

A victory at Elephant Pass, the biggest battle of the eight-year-old ethnic war, has become crucial for both sides. About 8,000 troops and 5,000 rebels, some only 14 years old, have been thrown into the fight.

The 8,000 seaborne troops who landed on a beach nine kilometres from the camp on July 14 have inched their way to the base in heavy fighting.

Ground troops using artillery and mortars have been supported by the navy and the air force.

Bodies of slain Lithuanian border guards lie in state

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — Hundreds of Lithuanians filed past the bodies of six border guards who were shot dead by unknown gunmen, in the latest killings since the Soviet republic declared independence last year.

The bodies, brought to Vilnius Thursday after the execution-style shootings at Medininkai 40 kilometres to the south, lay in open coffins at the city's 6,000-seat sports arena.

A mass funeral was planned for Saturday at Vilnius's Roman Catholic cathedral, to be fol-

lowed by a coriège through the capital's cobbled streets to a cemetery.

Two guards who survived the attack early Wednesday at a post on the border with the republic of Byelorussia remained in serious condition in hospital, one on a life support machine.

Investigators had no firm leads in the search for the culprits.

Lithuanian officials blamed Soviet security forces bent on intimidating the Lithuanian leadership in its drive for independence.

U.S. Senate supports B-2 after telling of B-1 cracks

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate supported President George Bush's request for four more costly B-2 Stealth bombers after a last-minute air force announcement that its other new bomber, the B-1B, had problems of cracking.

The Senate rejected 57-42 a proposal to halt production of the radar-evading B-2 at the 15 planes already approved, as the House of Representatives has already done.

Just hours before the vote, Air Force Secretary Donald Rice told senators that the B-1B bomber developed fuselage cracks last January and that repairs on some of the planes had been ineffective.

Opponents of the B-2 bomber angrily suggested Mr. Rice's announcement was a trick, saying the air force had known about the cracks since January but did not tell the Senate until two hours before the vote on the B-2 bomber.

The air force has nearly 100 B-1B bombers in operation but the new bombers have suffered a number of problems and were grounded during the Gulf war.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn told the Senate he learned of the cracks Monday and asked Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Mr. Rice Wednesday about informing the full Senate about the cracks.

"In my view it makes the B-2 much more important because the B-1 is clearly a troubled aircraft," Sen. Nunn said.

The action came as the Senate continued work on a \$291 billion authorisation bill for defence programmes next year.

Earlier, the Senate unanimously agreed that its new anti-missile defence plan is not intended to break the 1972 U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty.

Meanwhile Mr. Cheney said Thursday he expects U.S. military leaders will be reluctant to place women in combat roles and that he will make a final decision now that Congress has opened the door to historic change.

But in an interview with reporters, Mr. Cheney gave no hint on whether females will get the green light for battle after the Senate voted Wednesday to repeal U.S. laws against military women flying combat missions.

"It's a decision I'll have to make" after consulting with the chiefs of the armed forces branches and the civilian secretaries of the services, Mr. Cheney said.

"I would expect the chiefs to be conservative in terms of their approach to those kinds of changes ... the only reason for the existence of the Department of Defence is to be able to fight and win wars."

Although the military heads have voiced reluctance on putting women in combat, the House of Representatives has passed a similar bill and Wednesday's vote assured the repeal of laws that have banned women from air combat missions.

There is no law against women fighting in ground units, although army and Marine policy is to keep them out of combat.

The Senate also voted Wednesday to create a commission to study under what conditions women pilots and other military women should fight in wars.

12 die in fire at Australia handicapped people's home

SYDNEY (AP) — Twelve people died and 20 suffered minor injuries after a fire destroyed a residential care facility for the intellectually handicapped early Friday morning.

The Palm Grove Hostel outside Dungog, 200 kilometres north of Sydney, was completely destroyed by the overnight fire, officials said.

The New South Wales state coroner was trying to determine the cause of the blaze in the wooden, single-level building, which housed 40 men and women aged 34 to 69. A Dungog police spokesman said the facility was not considered a fire risk.

Eyewitnesses said those who died had little chance of escape. "It was an absolute inferno when we got there and it obviously hadn't been a light terribly long," said Fran Crane, who lives nearby and awoke to the sound of voices calling for help.

"By the time the fire brigade came, there was little they could do but just get the blaze under control."

Mrs. Crane's husband helped

five people escape from the building before he was forced to abandon his rescue efforts because of thick smoke and flames.

"There were quite a few survivors outside already (when we arrived) and it was really the efforts of those people getting themselves and their friends out that meant there were as many survivors as there were," Mrs. Crane said.

Police said 20 people were taken to Dungog Hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burns. They were later released and were being held with the other eight survivors at a children's day care centre.

A spokesman for the Hunter area health service said the residence provided long-term care for people with dementia, which includes various forms of brain damage, and for chronic alcoholics.

"We're very shocked," said the spokesman, who was not named. "It was very well run. The people who ran it provided a really good home."

7, including driver, killed in U.S. Girl Scout bus crash

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Worried parents have poured into Palm Springs looking for their daughters after a school bus carrying Girl Scouts crashed, killing seven people and injuring 33.

Five of the girls, between the ages of 15 and 18, who were taking part in a two-week "California Dreamin'" expedition, have broken backs, but most are expected to walk again, an aide at Desert hospital said.

Seven others are also listed in critical condition in hospitals and 11 in fair condition. They sustained mainly broken bones, cuts and bruises when the bus plunged into a ravine while travelling on a mountain road Wednesday.

The dead included the bus driver, two adult counsellors and four Girl Scouts. Police said the bus, rated to carry 72 people, had passed state motor vehicle inspections. It might take up to six weeks to decide what caused the accident.

Emergency workers at the site piled knapsacks, souvenirs and clothes in separate files as the investigation continued. Initial reports said six Girl Scouts were

killed, but hospital authorities said later two of the dead were adult supervisors.

"The parents are clearly grief-stricken and they are frightened," Jovanna Wooden, executive director of the Spanish Trails Girl Scout Council, which organised the trip, said.

Ms. Wooden said some of the girls on the bus said the driver appeared to try to brake and could not.

"They said it seemed like he was trying and couldn't get it to slow down," Ms. Wooden said. "They said at the very last point someone yelled 'brace yourself'."

The bus was second in a convoy of three buses taking 104 Girl Scouts, including four girls from Finland, on a hiking trip when it went off the narrow, winding road and tumbled 30 metres down a ravine strewn with boulders, snapping the bus from its chassis.

"It was like a bomb exploded," a policeman said.

A counselling centre was set up to comfort the survivors and help them overcome shock. The scouts had been selected from 600 applicants for the expedition.

Americans who stayed in Vietnam said to be source of sightings

DONG HOI, Vietnam (R) — About 70 Americans who chose to stay in Vietnam after the war ended in 1975 have been the source of mysterious sightings over the years of U.S. soldiers supposedly held prisoner, Western sources said.

A few died in Communist captivity, but the vast majority were released or expelled by the Vietnamese government by late 1976, said the sources, familiar with U.S. research on the issue, who asked not to be identified.

"There were about 70 Americans in Vietnam when the war ended. They were not on military active duty," one source told Reuters recently.

Exhaustive research by U.S. Department of Defence experts in Washington, Bangkok and Indochina has revealed that most sightings of Americans reported by Vietnamese boat people turned out to be those stragglers.

Some stayed behind after the war or arrived at the tumultuous

end of the fighting under bizarre circumstances.

One was Arlow Gay, an American who ran a shrimp fishing business in then South Vietnam with a British colleague until the partner left just before Communist victory.

Mr. Gay stayed, and took on a job to smuggle some Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) staff out of the country by boat in April 1975. He was caught by the Communists and imprisoned.

Vietnam moved him to a prison at Bat Bat, west of Hanoi, and expelled him in September 1976, one source said.

John Lecornec was a young American soldier who had left his Vietnamese common-law wife behind when he finished his tour of duty and returned to the United States.

When the Communists were nearing victory, he returned for his wife. He flew first to the Laotian capital of Vientiane and tried unsuccessfully to enter by

land before travelling by boat from the Thai coast. He was captured in southern Vietnam.

Because Mr. Lecornec had dual U.S.-French citizenship and spoke French, he tried to pass himself off as French.

It is not clear if the Vietnamese knew his true identity before he died of dysentery in a prison in Can Tho in the Mekong Delta a few weeks later.

U.S. authorities spent years investigating the mysterious Frenchman who had died at Can Tho.

"I finally turned out to be John Lecornec," one source said. Some Americans have cited the thousands of live sighting reports as evidence Washington left behind U.S. prisoners of war.

The issue of the 2,273 American servicemen who never returned home from Vietnam, dead or alive, made U.S. newspaper headlines last month with a mysterious photograph that purported to show three missing

American airmen.

U.S. officials said the photograph was a fake.

They say the fate of just 62 of the missing servicemen remains unresolved.

A U.S. office in Hanoi trying to determine what happened to these still missing declined to comment last week about the American stragglers.

Herman McDonald was one of several American soldiers who deserted while fighting in Vietnam.

After stints in the U.S. military prison in Saigon for going absent without leave (AWOL) or breaking other rules, he was living quietly with his Vietnamese common-law wife in the Mekong Delta when the war ended.

Half black, half Filipino and speaking Vietnamese, he tried to pass himself off as a Vietnamese of Cambodian descent.

Mr. McDonald stayed in the rice fields by day and returned home

only at night. He was turned in to the new local Communist authorities by his in-laws after an argument.

He was imprisoned, later released and finally returned to the United States, a source said.

Veto Baker, a soldier of Hawaiian descent, had a similar experience. He went AWOL in Danang and tried to pass himself off as Vietnamese when the war ended.

"He spent a lot of time out hunting or teaching English, but eventually got kicked out later on in 1975," one source said.

Paul Horton decided to remain after finishing a tour of duty at a mental hospital at Bien Hoa, near Saigon. He served sometimes as an interpreter and spent weekends in Saigon, renamed Ho Chi Minh City by the Communists.

He was eventually arrested by the Communist authorities, made to sign a confession that he was a CIA spy and deported.

COLUMN

Saudi prince's aide hangs 'help me' sign out hotel window

NEW YORK (AP) — The man who hung a plea for help written on a bedsheet out the window of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel was identified as a Saudi prince's secretary, police said. Turki Alajajout, 36, of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, told police he was "tortured and abused last week in Saudi Arabia due to a personal incident with" Prince Khalid Ibn Talal, said a police spokesman obtained by the Associated Press.

A police source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the secretary had been tortured with electrical wires. Mr. Alajajout was taken to New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Centre burn unit for treatment of old burns to both of his forearms and left wrist, said police spokesman Sgt. Peter Berry. Mr. Alajajout arrived with the prince's entourage at John F. Kennedy International Airport. The secretary told police the prince was met by private security guards who kept Mr. Alajajout under constant watch and restricted his movements.

Mr. Alajajout came to police attention when they responded to a bedsheet bearing the words "help me" hung out the 33rd floor window of the Waldorf-Astoria. The secretary told police he had not been abused in New York and did not want to press charges for unlawful imprisonment. Police spokespeople initially characterised Mr. Alajajout as an "emotionally disturbed person" of no particular importance.

Later, they admitted they purposely withheld information about his identity — but refused to say why.

Art stolen from French cathedral

PARIS (R) — Thieves have stolen some of the world's most beautiful medieval enamelwork from the 13th-century cathedral at Auxerre in central France, the city mayor said Thursday. Police believe the thieves hid in the Saint-Etienne d'Auxerre Cathedral before it closed for the night and made off with 12th-century scrolls, illuminated manuscripts, statuettes, and gold and silver work. "We have the most beautiful enamelwork of the whole medieval period," Mayor Jean-Pierre Soisson said. "Any of these things would be worth millions of francs (hundreds of thousands of dollars) at an auction." He said the thieves would be unable to sell the treasures because they were registered as historical works of art and could easily be recognised. But he feared they could cut up the manuscripts and sell them page-by-page to art collectors. Border police were on alert and photographs of the treasures would be distributed around the world, Mayor Soisson said.

Hedy Lamarr arrested for shoplifting

CASSELBERRY, Florida (R) — Police have arrested actress Hedy Lamarr for allegedly shoplifting \$21.48 worth of personal care items from a drugstore. "She was found to have in her possession several concealed personal care items that she had not paid for," said Casselberry police spokesman Patrick Simpson. "She did not have a receipt or proof of purchase of the items." It was Lamarr's second arrest for shoplifting. She was arrested in 1965 in Los Angeles but was later cleared of the charges. Police said a store clerk observed the 76-year-old Lamarr, a major Hollywood star in the 1930s and 1940s, stuffing the items in her purse. She handed them over calmly when asked to do so, Mr. Simpson said. "She was very, very nice about it, but made no comments at all about this," he said. "Miss Lamarr told us she is living in the area because she is receiving daily treatments for some kind of eye ailment." "Dark-haired and sultry, Miss Lamarr was a sensation even before her 1937 arrival in Hollywood due to a nude scene in one of her first European films, Ecstasy (1933). The film featured a naked Lamarr swimming and running through the woods in face during lovemaking. Ecstasy was alternately praised and banned and was shown in the United States only after extensive editing. Among her other films were: Algiers, Samson and Delilah and Boom Town. The actress gave Florida police an Austrian passport listing her birthdate as Nov. 9, 1914, Sgt. Simpson said. Miss Lamarr, who was accompanied by companion, was charged with shoplifting and released on her own recognisance without bail.



William Kennedy Smith is seen speaking to his mother Jean Kennedy Smith during a recent social event in Boston (file photo)